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of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

اَللّٰهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا ۙ يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِّنَ الظُّلُمٰتِ اِلَى النُّوْرِ ؕ

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# Ahmadiyya Gazette Online

United States of America

January 2022

Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad
Amir Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA
Leading Foundation Stone Ceremony for
the Fath-e-'Azeem Mosque in Zion IL

AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
*United States of America*

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah*
*Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] of Qadian*

# “Ghulam Ahmad Ki Jai”—Victory to Ghulam Ahmad

**Urdu Revelation of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, in quotes followed by its English translation**

## Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Zion Complex

Dr. Alexander Dowie built the city of Zion in Illinois. He aggressively started opposing Islam. *Hazrat* Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, challenged him for a prayer duel. Dr. Dowie wrote in “Leaves of Healing” on February 1903, “I pray to God that Islam is destroyed from the face of earth. O God! Accept my prayer. O God! Destroy Islam.” As a result of the prayer duel, Dr. Dowie died a miserable death from Diereplure in 1907 at the age of 59.

The truth has prevailed. The Chicago Evening American summarized his life story in the following words: “Gigantic success and tragic failures punctuate his life. Here are some of the remarkable works and reversals that marked Dowie's career: He built a creed; he was excommunicated. He built a city; he was expelled from it. He amassed a fortune of millions; he was reduced to virtual poverty. He elevated Voliva to great power; Voliva ruined him. He drew about him thousands who worshiped him; he died deserted by all save a handful of the faithful.”

The disciples of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad are now building a huge complex for the propagation of Islam in Zion. The foundation stone of the Fath-e-‘Azeem Mosque (مسجد فتحِ عظیم) and adjoining complex was officially laid on 10 July 2021. Construction is expected to be completed by March 2022. The new site is about ten acres of land and is situated at the corner of Lewis Avenue and 27th Street. The project is expected to cost around $5.0 m. The structure of the building shall be a mixture of modern design and traditional mosque architecture. It shall be roughly 13,000 sq. ft. There shall be a large prayer hall on the main floor with a community room and a kitchen in the basement. There shall be a minaret. The building of the complex shall be in three acres whereas seven acres shall be surrounding green space. Another key component will be an exhibition hall that houses items and historical documents that tell the story of the religious organization.

The foundation ceremony was hosted at Zion Benton Township School. National leaders from Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, some members of Congress, county officials and local law enforcement people were invited to attend the ceremony. Zion mayor Billy McKinney presented a mayoral proclamation.

Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Amir of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. He said, “Mosque is not only House of God in Islam where Muslims gather for congregational prayers, it is also a place for peace, harmony and human equality. The mosque reminds the Ahmadiyya Community of Zion of its obligations to worship one God and care for His creations.” The officials of Ahmadiyya Community highlighted the message of friendship, peace and harmony.

Some guests also spoke at the podium followed by lunch. Selected individuals laid bricks in the foundation. In the end the President of the Ahmadiyya Community Zion chapter, Abu Bakr, thanked the team of men and women who tirelessly worked hard for the project to happen. (Editor)

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**Patron:** Sahibzada Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad
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Visit us at AḥmadiyyaGazette.us
The Aḥmadiyya Gazette USA
Baitur-Rahman, 15000 Good Hope Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20905
Phone: 301-879-0110 FAX: 301-879-0115
e-mails: gazette@Aḥmadiyya.us
publications@Aḥmadiyya.us

**Acronyms for salutations used in this publication**

| | |
|---|---|
| s.a./s: | Ṣallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) |
| a.s./a: | 'Alaih-is-Salām |
| r.a.: | Raḍiyallāhu 'Anhu/'Anha (may Allah be pleased with him/her) |
| r.h.: | Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā (may Allah shower His mercy on him) |
| a.b.a.: | Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-'Azīz (may Allah support him with His mighty help) |

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Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur'ān count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.

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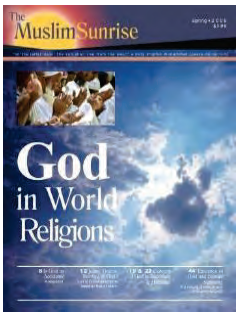


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# On Pandemic

## Guidance from the Holy Qur'ān

وَ قَالَ الۡاِنۡسَانُ مَا لَهَا

And man says, 'What is the matter with her (i.e., the earth)?' (99 [Al-Zilzāl]:4)

وَ اِذۡ تَاَذَّنَ رَبُّكَ لَيَبۡعَثَنَّ عَلَيۡهِمۡ اِلٰى يَوۡمِ الۡقِيٰمَةِ مَنۡ يَّسُوۡمُهُمۡ سُوۡٓءَ الۡعَذَابِ ؕ اِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَسَرِيۡعُ الۡعِقَابِ ۖۚ وَ اِنَّهٗ لَغَفُوۡرٌ رَّحِيۡمٌ

And remember the time when thy Lord proclaimed that He would truly raise against them, till the Day of Resurrection, those who would afflict them with grievous torment. Surely, thy Lord is quick in retribution, and surely, He is also Most Forgiving, Merciful. (7 [Al-A'rāf]:168)

وَ مَا نُرِيۡهِمۡ مِّنۡ اٰيَةٍ اِلَّا هِىَ اَكۡبَرُ مِنۡ اُخۡتِهَا ۫ وَ اَخَذۡنٰهُمۡ بِالۡعَذَابِ لَعَلَّهُمۡ يَرۡجِعُوۡنَ

And We showed them no Sign but it was greater than its preceding sister, and We seized them with punishment, that they might turn to Us. (43 [Al-Zukhruf] :49)

## Guidance from the Holy Prophet

**(Peace and blessings of Allah be on him)**

Narrated by Sa`d: The Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said, "If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place." (Sahih al-Bukhari, Book on Medicine, Chapter: Mention of Plague)

Narrated 'Amir bin Sa`d bin Abi Waqqas that he heard Usama bin Zaid speaking to Sa`d, saying, "Allah's Messenger (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) mentioned the plague and said, 'It is a means of punishment with which some nations were punished and some of it has remained, and it appears now and then. So, whoever hears that there is an outbreak of plague in some land, he should not go to that land, and if the plague breaks out in the land where one is already present, one should not run away from that land, escaping from the plague." (Sahih al-Bukhari, Book on Excuses, Chapter on what is not desired in fleeing from plague)

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah said: The martyrs are five (types):

1. Those who die of the plague
2. Stomach illness
3. Drowning
4. Being crushed
5. And the martyr in the cause of Allah

(Jami' al-Tirmidhi, Chapters on Funerals, Chapter on their Martyrs)

# Guidance from the Promised Messiah

**(May peace be on him)**

One of the signs God manifested in support of the Promised Messiah was the sudden appearance of plague in the province of the Punjab. On 6 February 1898 Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad saw in a vision:

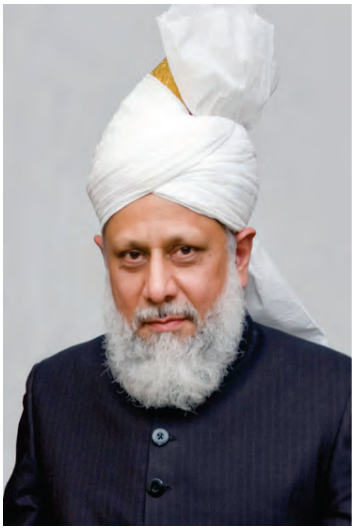
"Angels of God are planting black trees in different places of the Punjab. These plants are very ugly, black, frightening and stunted. I asked the person planting these trees, what kind of trees are these? He replied that these were plague trees, which would spread in the country very shortly." (Ayyām al-Sulh, page 121, adapted from A Brief History of Ahmadiyya Community, Shaikh Khurshid Ahmad, Translated by Zakaria Virk, Chapter A Great Sign of Plague)

It is noteworthy that this virulent disease was unheard of in the history of the Punjab. His opponents ridiculed him. Next winter, in fulfillment of this revelation, bubonic plague broke out in various cities of the Punjab.

The havoc created by this scourge was surely a stern reminder of the Day of Judgement. With an average of thirty to forty thousand people dying every week, thousands of villages, towns, and cities were deserted overnight. The prophecy had a positive impact on right-minded people, a lot of them joined the Community.

The Promised Messiah announced that all his true followers will be saved and will not die of this deadly disease. Indeed, God Almighty saved his Messenger, his family and all of his faithful followers as foretold in the following prophecy: "I will protect all those who are within the periphery of your house." (Kashtī Nooh, page 4, 5 October 1902)

# Guidance from Khalifat-ul-Masih V on COVID-19



This virus has compelled the world to reflect about returning to God. However, the True God and the Living God is only the God of Islam, Who has announced to show the path towards Himself for those who desire to do so. He has announced to those who take only a step towards Him that He shall hold their hands and take them many steps forward and to take them in His protection.

The secular world is saying that these pandemics will continue to increase. For this reason, like I have said, for a noble end, it is essential that we also turn towards God Almighty and then tell the world that true end is the life in the hereafter for which you must return to God.

Regarding this, a warning of an expert (that was published in The Times on 6 March) is that the chances of dangerous virus' genetic mutations becoming normal are very high and along with this, within a matter of years, a new coronavirus can potentially spread in the world. It is written that maybe every three years, a new disease may surface.

I have previously given guidelines about the coronavirus pandemic and will give a reminder [now] because this is spreading across the world very quickly and the effect is greatly being felt here as well. The government has therefore been forced to take further steps and stricter measures.

When diseases and pandemics surface, they can take everyone in their grasp. For this reason, everyone should take great caution. Act upon the advice of the government. Those who are elderly, ill, or have such illnesses that weaken immunity, should take great caution. The elderly should rarely leave the house, and this is what the government has also announced, unless someone has very good health, but generally they should remain at home.

Take precaution when attending mosques as well. Offer Jumu'ah [Friday] Prayers at your local mosque. By the looks of the attendance here today [at the Mubarak Mosque] it seems people are offering Jumu'ah Prayers at their local mosques. But even then, this is only until the government says not to gather for Jumu'ah either.

Women should generally avoid coming to the mosque [during these days], especially since they come

with children, therefore they should avoid it. Generally, doctors are advising to pay attention to rest in order to increase our immune system and therefore attention should be paid towards getting enough sleep.

Make sure you have enough sleep, yourselves and your children. An adult should get 6-7 hours of sleep and children require 8-9 or 10 hours of sleep. Attention should be paid towards this, and it should not be the case that one stays awake watching television till late at night and then in the morning, misses the Fajr [morning] Prayer and gets up in a rush for work that one has to get to in a few hours, and remains lethargic and lazy throughout the day, on top of the tiredness from work. This is how diseases and illnesses attack.

In the same manner, instill the habit of sleeping early and waking up early within children with 8-9 hours of sleep.

Also, avoid eating foods from outside [i.e., unhealthy food], especially crisps that people give to children to eat or such foods that have preservatives in them; these are harmful to health and should be avoided; such foods also slowly weaken the human body.

Doctors are advising to continuously drink water these days. It is essential to drink some water every hour or every half an hour or so. This is also a way to stay protected from illness.

Hands should be kept clean. Even if sanitizers are not available, wash your hands frequently. And like I mentioned before, those who perform the ablution at least five times a day have the opportunity to remain clean, thus pay attention to this as well.

Regarding sneezing, as I have said before, cover the nose with a handkerchief when at the mosque, at home and in general. Or, as some doctors have now advised, sneeze into your arm so the droplets do not spread. In any case, hygiene is very important and great attention should be paid to this.

However, the ultimate solution is prayer. And we should pray that Allah protects us all from this illness and from its ill effects. We should also pray for all those Ahmadis who have contracted this illness in whatever manner, and for those who doctors suspect have the virus. (Excerpts from Friday Sermon 20 March 2020. Adapted from translation by Review of Religions team.)

# Friday Sermons by Khalīfat-ul-Masīḥ V in 2020

**(May Allah support him with His mighty help)**

## 3 January 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V announced the new year of Waqf-e-Jadīd 2020 and described ways of seeking Allah's blessings.

The positions of the first ten Jamā'ats in the USA for their total contribution are as follows: Maryland, Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, Houston, Central Virginia, Seattle, Detroit, South Virginia, Chicago and North Virginia.

## 10 January 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued the account of Hazrat Sa`d bin 'Ubadah (may Allah be pleased with him), a companion of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who took part in the battle of Badr.

## 17 January 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued the account of Hazrat Sa`d bin 'Ubadah (may Allah be pleased with him), companion of the Holy Prophet who took part in the battle of Badr.

## 24 January 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned Hazrat 'Abdullah bin Rawaha (may Allah be pleased with him), the companion of the Holy Prophet.

## 31 January 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V spoke about Hazrat Abu Talha (may Allah be pleased with him), the companion of the Holy Prophet.

## 7 February 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned Hazrat Maslamah bin Salamah (may Allah be pleased with him), the companion of the Holy Prophet.

## 14 February 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V stated that in the last sermon he explained the incidence of the capital punishment of Ka'b bin Ashraf at the hands of Hazrat Muhammad bin Maslamah. He explained that the assertion that one is permitted to tell a lie in three situations is a completely false notion and it is based on a wrong interpretation of the hadith. The Promised Messiah made this point evidently clear in his book Nur-ul-Qur'ān.

## 21 February 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V described that February 20th is specially commemorated in the Jamā'at with regards to the prophecy of Muslih Mau'ūd (the Promised Reformer). Huzoor described an aspect of the prophecy.

## 28 February 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V mentioned Hazrat Mus'ab bin 'Umair (may Allah be pleased with him).

## 6 March 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to speak on Ḥaḍrat Mus'ab bin 'Umair (may Allāh be pleased with him).

## 13 March 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah support him with His mighty help)

related accounts from the life of Hazrat Talha bin ‘Ubaidullah (may Allah be pleased with him).

## 20 March 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V stated that on 23rd March, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) formally initiated the pledge of allegiance and founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He spoke about the Promised Messiah.

## 3 April 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V stated that because of the current pandemic circumstances, and in accordance with the law of the land, it was not possible to deliver the Friday sermon in the mosque with people in attendance. Every Ahmadi should follow the instructions from their governments for safety.

He had been describing the life of Hazrat Talha bin ‘Ubaidullah, a companion of the Holy Prophet, who took part in the Battle of Badr and Battle of Camel.

## 10 April 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V spoke about the Corona Pandemic and duties and the responsibilities of every Ahmadi.

## 17 April 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V narrated accounts in the life of Hazrat Mu`az bin Harith (may Allah be pleased with him) who belonged to the Khazraj tribe of Banu Malik bin Najjar.

## 24 April 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V delivered today’s Friday Sermon on Ramadan and how to achieve Taqwa (righteousness).

## 1 May 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V delivered today’s Friday Sermon on the following exemplary men who died recently from Corona Pandemic: Zulfiqar Ahmad Damanik, a Missionary from Indonesia, Dr. Pir Muhammad Naqi Uddin of Islamabad, Pakistan and Ghulam Mustafa, a volunteer in the Private Secretary’s office.

## 8 May 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V narrated accounts in the life of Hazrat Khabbāb bin al-Arat (may Allah be pleased with him) who belonged to Sa‘d bin Zaid tribe.

## 22 May 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V thanked all those Ahmadis who had expressed their sentiments and prayed for him when he suffered some injuries few days back. Huzoor delivered Friday sermon on: Strive for a good ending with quality worship, prayers and good deeds.

## 29 May 2020

Khalifatul-Masih V talked in today’s Friday sermon about love between Ahmadis and Khalifat-ul-Masih. MTA has entered in a new era from 27th of May, the Khilāfat Day. MTA has started its transmissions in eight channels to the different regions of the world.

## 5 June 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned about two companions of the Holy Prophet: Hazrat Suhaib bin Sinan (may Allah be pleased with him) and Hazrat Sa‘d bin Rabi‘ (may Allah be pleased with him).

Huzoor also talked about the rights of women and guided us regarding Pandemic and situation in America and the world.

## 12 June 2020

In today’s Friday sermon, Khalifat-ul-Masih V narrated accounts in the life of Hazrat Sa‘id bin Zaid and Hazrat ‘Abd-ur-Rahman bin ‘Auf (may Allah be pleased with them).

## 19 June 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to narrate accounts from the life of Hazrat ‘Abd-ur-Rahman bin ‘Auf (may Allah be pleased with him).

## 26 June 2020

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah support him with His mighty help) continued to narrate accounts from the life of Hazrat ‘Abd-ur-Rahman bin ‘Auf and started describing life and services of Hazrat Sa‘d bin Mu‘adh (may Allah be pleased with him).

## 3 July 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to narrate accounts from the life of Hazrat Sa‘d bin Mu‘adh (may Allah be pleased with him).

## 10 July 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to describe the accounts from the life of Hazrat Sa‘d bin Mu‘adh (may Allah be pleased with him).

Huzoor led the funeral service in absentia of Safiya Begum (USA) who passed away on 27th June. She was the wife of late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, a missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. She was the daughter of Hazrat Qazi Abdus Salaam Bhatti, a companion of the Promised Messiah.

## 17 July 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued relating incidents from the life of Hazrat Sa`d bin Mu`adh (may Allah be pleased with him)

## 24 July 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned Hazrat Sa‘d bin Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) who took part in the battles of Badr, Uhud, Khandaq, Khaibar and was also involved in the treaty of Ḥudaibiyah and the conquest of Mecca.

## 31 July 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V delivered Eid Sermon. Huzoor also talked about the purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him).

## 7 August 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned extraordinary progress of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community all over the world.

Huzoor presented a report regarding the establishment of 217 new mosques and 97 new mission

houses in the past year.

### 14 August 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued the mention of Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him).

### 21 August 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to mention the Companions of the Holy Prophet who took part in battle of Badr with the mention of Hazrat Zubair bin Awwam (may Allah be pleased with him).

### 28 August 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V said that in this era, according to the promise of God, the Promised Messiah was sent as the Hakam and 'Adl [Judge and Just Arbiter], who, through the teachings of the Holy Prophet, was to unite the Muslim Ummah.

### 4 September 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued the mention of Hazrat Zubair bin Awwam (may Allah be pleased with him).

### 11 September 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned the companion of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah (may Allah be pleased with him).

### 18 September 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to highlight the incidents from the life of Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah.

### 25 September 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to highlight the life of Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah.

### 2 October 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V highlighted incidents from the life of the companion, Hazrat Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (may Allah be pleased with him).

Huzoor urged everyone to particularly pray for the Ahmadis in Pakistan, as opposition is on the rise once again.

### 9 October 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to highlight the incidents from the life of Hazrat Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah.

### 16 October 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V described the life and services of two companions of the Holy Prophet; Hazrat Mu'awwidh bin Harith and Hazrat Ubayy bin Ka'b (may Allah be pleased with them).

### 23 October 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V highlighted the incidents from the life of the companion of the Holy Prophet; Hazrat Mu'adh bin Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him).

### 30 October 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to highlight incidents from the life of Hazrat Mu'adh bin Jabal, a companion of the Holy Prophet.

### 6 November 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V announced the new year of Tahrik Jadīd.

Huzoor made an appeal for the special prayers. He said that we normally pray for ourselves and Ahmadiyya community, but we should also pray for the entire Muslim world.

### 13 November 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V highlighted life and services of companions of the Holy Prophet who took part in the battle of Badr. He mentioned two companions, Hazrat 'Abdullah bin 'Amr and Hazrat Abu Dujanah (may Allah be pleased with them).

### 20 November 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V highlighted incidents from the life of Hazrat 'Auf bin Harith bin Rifa'ah Ansari and Hazrat Abu Ayyub Ansari (may Allah be pleased with them), the companions of the Holy Prophet.

### 27 November 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V started describing life and services from said Rightly Guided Caliphs, beginning with Fourth Caliph, Hazrat 'Ali bin Abi Talib bin 'Abd-ul-Muttalib, may Allah be pleased with him.

### 4 December 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued to highlight incidents from the life of Hazrat Ali.

### 11 December 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Ali.

### 18 December 2020

Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Ali.

Huzoor again urged the Ahmadiyya Community all over the world to pray for the Ahmadis in Algeria and Pakistan.

### 25 December 2020

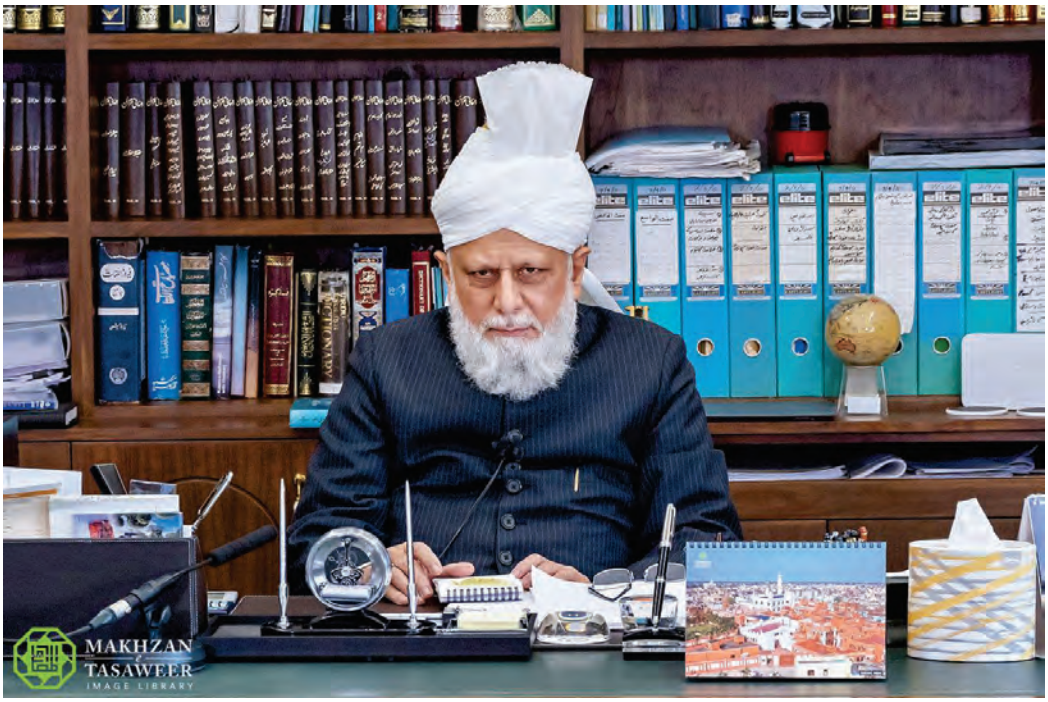
Khalifat-ul-Masih V continued highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat 'Ali. Huzoor also asked for prayers, for the Ahmadis residing in Pakistan and Algeria.

(Dr Mahmud Nagi)

Full original text of Friday Sermons by the Caliphs of Ahmadiyya Islam is available in print in Al-Fazl International, Al-Fazl Rabwah and Badr. These publications are also available online at alislam.org under periodicals. Translations and summaries of Friday Sermons are available in various languages on alislam.org under Friday Sermons. Weekly Al-Fazl International (Urdu) can be subscribed at amibookstore.us or by sending a check for $120 to Faiza Bajwa (Al-Fazl International), 188-15 McLaughlin Avenue, Hollis NY 11423.

# Khilafat News and Announcements

## Guidance from Khalifat-ul-Masih V Regarding Pandemic & Situation in America and the World




At the end of his Friday Sermon on 5 June 2020, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community solicited that we pray for the world to be saved from the coronavirus and that the world may be granted the understanding that their sustenance is solely in prostrating to the One God, upholding the rights of others and putting an end to disorder. He prayed that the governments may be given the wisdom to act with justice.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad then prayed that all Ahmadis especially, be protected from the disorder rampant in America. May the people be enabled to present their requirements and obtain their rights. He stated that if however, the African Americans burn down their own houses, they will only be harming themselves, and some African leaders have also urged them not to do so. They should of course try to obtain their rights, but in a lawful manner, not by burning down their own property. Hence, those protesting should be mindful of this.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said that in any case, the governments should come to realize that all this chaos will not be solved through force, nor is it the answer to all problems, rather, the sustenance of a government is in its just dealing of all its citizens; only then can law and order be established in the land. If the people become restless, then no government can stand against them.

In the end His Holiness prayed that may Allah remove the disorder all around the world, may the governments uphold the rights of their citizens and may the people obtain their rights through lawful measures.

Likewise, with the increasingly difficult situation for the Ahmadis in Pakistan, the Pakistani government should not allow this to happen out of fear of the religious clerics. They should rather act with justice and learn lessons from their history. By oppressing and acting unjustly, no previous government has lasted, nor can any do so now. Hence, they should not be under the impression that this issue will allow their government to remain intact. In fact, these injustices have allowed the Ahmadis to make further progress.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad stated that this is the work of God, and no one has the power to halt it. May Allah Almighty remove all the injustice, disorder and turmoil in the world. May the world learn a lesson from the pandemic which we are currently facing and make changes within ourselves. May Ahmadis increase in their efforts towards upholding the rights of God and the rights of mankind, in order to attain greater love of God Almighty. (Prepared by the team of The Review of Religions & alislam. Adapted for Gazette USA.)

# Special Message by Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on Government restrictions amid the Coronavirus Pandemic

Khalifat-ul-Masih V delivered a special message on government restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic. He stated: "Due to current pandemic, many governments around the world, including the British government have imposed certain restrictions. Among them is that the congregational Prayer cannot be offered in the mosque, or even if the Prayers are allowed to be offered, no more than a few people can congregate for it, who must be closely related.

The exact rules and regulations however are not yet clear. People are offering various interpretations.

In any case, in light of the current situation, until there is further clarity on the matter, the Friday Prayers cannot take place. Furthermore, certain matters with regards to offering the Friday Prayer require further elaboration. Hence, after seeking consultation, I have decided that instead of the Friday Sermon, I will address the community from my office in the form of a message and the formal Friday Prayers will not be offered.

Listening to the Sermon of the Khalifa of the time on Fridays through MTA is something that people have become accustomed to. If today I did not address the Community, it is possible that some people could have become disheartened, or at times people begin to speculate and make assumptions. Thus, I deemed it appropriate that I ought to address the Community in one way or another and thus I decided to address you in the form of a message from my office.

Nevertheless, as I have mentioned, we will not be offering the Friday Prayers today, however, the members will be informed of the provisions that will be made in future, God willing. Moreover, we cannot miss the Friday Prayers for a prolonged period of time. As I have mentioned that for me to remain in contact with the Jamā'at (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community) is important and even more so in light of the current circumstances. Therefore, after consulting with those well versed in the law and other relevant individuals, God Willing, we will find an alternative solution for this.

I would also like to say to the members of the Jamā'at that the government has imposed restrictions on attending the mosque in light of the current outbreak. The UK government has not completely prohibited the people from attending the mosque, however, they have stated that people can come individually, or a few members of a family can come to pray. Even then they ought to maintain a reasonable distance between them as prescribed by the government that there should not be any close contact. In any case the formal congregational Prayers cannot be offered in the mosque. Hence, in these circumstances, the members of the Jamā'at should offer Prayers in congregation and also the Friday Prayers in their homes. They can read an extract from the *Malfūzāt* [sayings and discourses of the Promised Messiah], the books of the Jamā'at, other writings of the Promised Messiah, *Al-Fazl, Al-Hakam*, or from any other periodicals of the Jamā'at and deliver the Friday sermon. Any adolescent or adult male of the house can lead the Friday Prayers as well as the congregational Prayers. Nonetheless, the Friday Prayers cannot be missed for a prolonged period of time.

When people start preparing to lead the Friday Sermon at home they will have to research, which will lead to their increase in their knowledge. Thus, remaining at home through the government lockdown will become a means of spiritual and educational benefit. In fact, *Al-Hakam* has started to get feedback from people as to how they spend their time under these restrictions and most responded that they are gaining further knowledge through reading the Holy Quran, Hadith, books of the Promised Messiah as well as literature of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Even on secular sites, other people in the world are saying that the current situation has been an opportunity to improve and revive their domestic lives and has led to self-improvement. We should similarly strive to adorn our homely lives, to better ourselves and to give good training and upbringing to our children. There are excellent programmes on MTA, which you should make an effort to set aside time to watch together. As I have previously mentioned, you must also fully abide by the policies and guidelines issued by the government given in the best interests of the public and for everyone's health and safety.

Most of all, as I said in my previous sermons, give heed greatly towards prayers. Through prayers we can absorb the blessings and grace of Allah the Almighty and we can maintain a healthy spiritual and physical state. The Promised Messiah has repeatedly admonished us towards this. Further, he has counselled us with reference to similar circumstances, that most importantly we should seek forgiveness from Allah for our sins, purify our hearts and engage in pious deeds. Allah the Almighty has granted us prayer as an immense tool and thus we should give heed towards this in order to derive

benefit from our prayers in a manner that through them, we can enter into the refuge of Allah the Almighty."

As far as not offering the Friday Prayer is concerned, according to some Ahadith there are certain situations in which offering the congregational Prayer and the Friday Prayer becomes exempt. For example, there is a narration recorded in Sahih Bukhari by Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) in which he said to his Mu'azzin [the one who calls for Prayer] on a day it was raining: "When you have recited: Ash-hadu allä iläha Illallāhu [I bear witness that there is no god but Allah] and Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasūlullāh [I bear witness that Muhammad is His Messenger] do not recite Hayya 'Alas-Saläh [Come to Prayer]. Instead, recite Sallu Fi Buyutikum [offer the Prayer in your homes]." This seemed somewhat new to the people and they expressed their astonishment. Upon this, Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) stated: "This practice was also carried out by the Holy Prophet, who was far better than I." Hazrat Ibn Abbas further stated that indeed the Friday Prayer was obligatory, however, he did not wish for people to be troubled by walking through mud and slippery ground.

This narration has also been recorded in Sahih Muslim with a slight variation of words: On a day when it was raining, Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said to his Mu'azzin [the one calls for Prayer]: "When you have recited: Ash-hadu allä iläha Illallāhu [I bear witness that there is no god but Allah] and Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasūlullāh [I bear witness that Muhammad is His Messenger], do not recite Hayya 'Alas-Saläh [come to Prayer]. Instead, recite Sallu Fi Buyutikum [Offer the Prayer in your homes]." The narrator then stated that this instruction seemed somewhat new to the people. Upon this, Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) stated: "Do you express your astonishment at this practice, whereas this was carried out by the one who is far better than I [i.e., referring to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him)]." Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) further stated that indeed the Friday Prayer was obligatory, however, he did not wish for people to be troubled by walking through mud and slippery ground.

Imam Nadvi writes in the commentary of this Hadith that in certain extenuating circumstances such as rain and so on, the permission to make the Friday Prayer exempt has been established according to the aforementioned Hadith. He further writes that this was his view as well as the belief of other jurists, however, Imam Malik held an opinion contrary to this. God Almighty knows best the truth of the matter.

Similarly, jurists have also included certain outbreaks in which it is difficult to congregate in the mosque as part of the reasons which exempt congregational and Friday Prayers. They have based this argument on the commandment of Allah the Almighty in which he states that God Almighty does not desire hardship upon believers in matters concerning faith. It was in light of this very teaching that during the days of his illness, the Holy Prophet would not go to the mosque and instructed Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) to lead the Prayers. This Hadith can be found in Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. Likewise, this exemption also applies to an individual who is fearful for their life due to an outbreak of disease. This tradition narrated by Hazrat Ibn Abbas. The Holy Prophet explained on the exemptions owing to fear and outbreak of disease. This Hadith has been recorded in Sunan Abi Dawud.

Thus, the recent outbreak is highly contagious, and the government has also issued guidelines and imposed certain restrictions, which are important to follow in accordance to the law. Therefore, owing to these guidelines, it is not possible to congregate in one place and offer Prayers or the Friday Prayers. However, as I mentioned earlier, everyone should make a habit to offer their Prayers in congregation in their homes. This will instill the importance of Prayer within children and they will realize that, despite not being able to go to the mosque owing to the present situation, they must fulfil the obligation of congregational Prayers in their homes.

Thus, the members ought to pay particular attention towards this. Even in the time of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) during certain journeys, there were instances that owing to the conditions, he did not offer the Friday Prayer.

Nevertheless, there are many such narrations in which it states that it is not safe for people to congregate or meet one another during an outbreak of an epidemic or disease. Therefore, one should keep a distance from another. As mentioned earlier, we are not abandoning the Friday Prayer for a prolonged period, but instead we are looking for alternative possible arrangements for the Friday Prayer to be offered in the homes, and I will also look for an arrangement for myself.

It is also imperative to pray that may Allah the Almighty grant His blessings and as I mentioned before, may Allah the Almighty swiftly rid the world of this epidemic. May Allah enable the mankind to fulfil the rights of one another and recognize God Almighty. (27 March 2020. Translation by Review of Religions)

# Muslims Commemorate First Muslim Centennial

## Events draw U.S. Senators, members of House of Representatives and Law Enforcement officials in over 50 U.S. cities

On Saturday, May 9th, the nation's oldest Muslim organization hosted Virtual Interfaith Iftar events across the country in commemoration of its historical centennial year. As the first Muslim organization to accomplish 100 years in America, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA invited Americans across the country to unite together in interfaith virtual Iftar celebrations amid the pandemic stay-at-home orders.

More than 120 public officials attended the Iftars across more than 50 U.S. cities. Among these officials included 14 members of the U.S. Congress, dozens of members of state and local governments (including state representatives, state senators, mayors, city council members and assembly members), as well as members of law enforcement. Faith leaders from various religious traditions also joined the virtual gatherings.

The events began by celebrating the historic centennial of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community with a five-minute video highlighting the 100-year journey since the community was established in America in 1920. Each guest speaker then spoke passionately about how prayer, empathy and togetherness are essential now more than ever.

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) joined the Iftar in Richmond, VA, and congratulated the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community centennial by highlighting its motto. He said,

> "Congratulations on the Centennial of 100 years. It must have seemed like a Herculean task to come to the United States and introduce the Ahmadiyya faith to the American public, but the value of 'Love for All, and Hatred for None' was not a value that was foreign to the shores. Even if we don't live that way, the equality principle that all are created equal is very close to the value expressed in the Ahmadiyya [Muslim] Community."

The Senator concluded his remarks with a prayer of his own:

> "In this time of great challenge, even when we can't exactly understand why it's all happening… just don't abandon your faith and your principles… That's my prayer for all of us that we hold to our faith in our religious values, and we hold to our faith in the values of this country."

"You have a 100-year experience here in the United States, and our country has had the good fortune to have you become such an integral part of our communities. But there is no reason at all that in countries such as Pakistan-which at times claims to be an American ally, that you should be subjected to any type of persecution, never mind the horrible kind of persecution that you are forced to deal with," remarked U.S. Representative Pete King (R-NY) while speaking at the Long Island Virtual Iftar about the persecution the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has faced in different countries around the world. "At a time when there are terrible disputes going on in the world and divisions between people, religions, countries and ethnic groups, no one has been more stalwart in the defense of the United States than the Ahmadiyya [Muslim] Community. So, I am proud to call you, my friends. I look forward to continuing working with you."

U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) was among the many members of Congress to also join a virtual Iftar, this one in Portland, Oregon.

> "Ramadan under quarantine is very different but still very meaningful. It's important to distance ourselves physically, but we must not distance ourselves socially, culturally, or spiritually, which is why I so appreciate this Interfaith Iftar… I know the Ahmadiyya Community has always worked for unity, for peace, for equality… Love for all, and hate for none."

In the end, thousands of Americans of various faiths joined the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for the Centennial Interfaith Iftars around the country.

"There is no better way to commemorate our 100-year history than joining with our public officials and friends of different faith communities in a recognition of how prayer and unity are essential to persevere through this pandemic together," said Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Director for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA.

About the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, he said:

> The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in

1889, the Community spans 213 countries with tens of millions of members. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is the oldest American-Muslim organization.

"The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings."

# Centennial Report of Ahmadiyya Community Tulsa Chapter

## Jalsa

The convention was attended by 7 Ansar, 16 Khuddam, 3 Atfāl, 3 under 7-year age, 27 Lajna, 7 Nāsirat, 3 under 7-year girls and 1 guest. Total 67.

## Tahajjud and Fajr Prayers

By the grace of Allah, with the dawn of the new century for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, the Tulsa Chapter began the day with Tahajjud followed by Fajr (Early morning) Prayers and a short Dars informing about the importance of the day. Breakfast was served afterwards.

We gathered at the residence of Joland Kaious, a Marshallese Ahmadi member who has been living in USA for the past couple of years.

## Nationwide Day of Service

The Tulsa Chapter did their service by doing a Highway Cleanup. Six members participated.

## Muslih Mau'ūd Day-20 February 2020

Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad Amir USA spoke about the prophecy of Prophet Zoroaster about Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him). He spoke about various aspects of the early childhood of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd. He quoted an observer:

> "Once I resolved to spend the night in the Mubarak Mosque and in solitude shall ask for whatever my heart desires. But what do I see when I reach the mosque. Someone is lying prostrate and praying with imploration. I could not offer my prayer because of his beseeching and was quite moved by his supplication. And I too became engrossed in prayer. I prayed that O Allah! Please grant this man whatever he is requesting from You. And I became tired from standing and waiting for this man to lift his head so that I could see who it was. I cannot say how long he had been there before I arrived. But when he lifted his head, what do I see! It was Mian Mahmud Ahmad sahib. I said "peace be upon you," shook his hand and asked, "Mian! What have you acquired from Allah today?" He replied that I have only asked that O Lord! Please revive Islam in front of my very eyes. And upon saying this he went inside." (Fazl-e-Umar, Page 85)

Respected Amir in his speech also mentioned that if we look at the Prophecy of Muslih Mau'ūd in its entirety, one can see the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him).

# Orlando Chapter holds Virtual Centennial Interfaith Iftar

Orlando Chapter successfully held the Centennial Interfaith Iftar virtually on 9 May 2020, via Zoom. A total of 41 members logged into the session to participate in this blessing. The program started at 6:50 PM. We were fortunate to have an outside guest, Matt Hartley, who sits on the board for Interfaith Center of Northeast Florida. Our Lajna Public Affairs Secretary, Dania Rehman, was able to reach out to the local dignitaries and successfully secure messages from Congressman Darren Soto of District 9 and Senator Linda Stewart of District 13 from Florida. Our Guest of Honor was Habeeb Shafeek who received the Hadrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Award in National MKA Ijtemā in 2018. The agenda is outlined below. The program ended at 8:00 PM with silent prayer.

Agenda:

Tilāwat: Tayyab Mehmood

Opening remarks: Fazal Ur Rehman Qureshi President Orlando Chapter

Introduction to Ahmadiyya Muslim Community: Dr Moneeb Virk

Guest Speaker: Matt Hartley

Video message: Congressman Darren Soto (District 9)

Speech: Dr Ahsan Shah

Video message: Senator Linda Stewart (District 13)

Speech: Asadullah Mohammad

Guest of Honor: Habeeb Shafeek

(Waleed Solangi, General Secretary of Orlando Chapter)

# Baltimore Riots 2020

Since many Ahmadis have asked, I am humbly sharing the status of Baltimore riots and our response. The situation worsened on Monday, April 27th when protests turned violent and over a dozen police officers were injured.

**Safety:** Al-Hamdu Lillah, all members and their families are safe. Due to the curfew (from 10 PM to 5 am) we had to cancel our monthly congregational Tahajjud Prayer at the masjid this Saturday. But we will be holding our Jumu'a Prayers and gathering for Fajr/local Ansarullah Ijtimā on Saturday. Our masjid is about 5-10 minutes away from the affected areas.

**Response:** By the grace of Allah, members of Baltimore Jamā'at are providing daily dinner for 65 seniors at a center at 1520 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD (adjoining the CVS Pharmacy that was burned in the riots). Due to the blockade, the center's food supply chain was severed. We have a seven-day commitment starting from Tuesday April 28 till May 4 Monday. Our members are preparing, delivering and serving hot meals on a daily basis.

**Relationships**: In the process, we have strengthened our existing relationships with city officials and forged some new ones too. Our services were recognized by ABC2 News and WBAL radio. But our prayer remains, رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا (Our Lord, accept this from us).

The mutual love and brotherhood in the Jamā'at of The Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) is remarkable. People have called from all over the world pretty much, asking, "Are you all safe? Is it alright?" That's why I am sharing this message of gratitude and prayers with our presidents and missionaries as well.

Our auxiliaries and local Missionaries are doing a remarkable job. Kindly remember all of them in your prayers. (Faheem Younus Qureshi, Serving Baltimore Jamā'at)

# Detroit Chapter celebrates the 2020 Khilafat Day

Zoom
Hazrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin Khalifatul Masih I (ra)
Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-din Mahmood Ahmad Khalifatul Masih II (ra)
Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul Masih III (rh)
Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul Masih IV (rh)
Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul Masih V (aa)

Detroit Chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA held its Khilafat Day on Sunday, 31 May 2020. This years' Khilafat Day was held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. Members from Detroit, Dayton, and Columbus celebrated the event jointly as mid-west regional Khilafat Day.

Amir Jamā'at USA, respected Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, graciously attended and presided the program.

The formal program started with the recitation and translation from the Holy Quran by Qummer Mahmood, followed by poem by Masood Khan both of Detroit Chapter. Regional missionary, Shamshad Nasir welcomed and thanked Amir USA for sparing time to attend and preside over the program. He also welcomed the members from the three chapters, Dayton, Detroit and Columbus.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir delivered his address: "Khilafat of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community started on 27 May 1908 when Hazrat Hakeem Nūrruddīn (may Allah be pleased with him) was chosen as a first caliph after the demise of promised Messiah Ahmad (may peace be on him). That's why we commemorate Khilafat Day every year on this date. For the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at this is a special day that comes in the month of May.

The very first time that Khilafat Day was celebrated by the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was on 27 May 1957. This was in accordance with the instruction of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd, Khalifat-ul-Masih II. It is worth noting that he announced this day on the eve of Ijtemā of Majlis Khuddam in Rabwah in October 1956. The venue of this august convention was in Rabwah at Mubarak Mosque. The Ijtima was presided by Hazrat Maulana Abul 'Ata Principal, Jami'ah Ahmadiyya Rabwah. The proceedings, that started at 7 AM and lasted till 11 AM, consisted of addresses delivered by scholars of the Jamā'at on a variety of aspects of Ahmadiyya Khilafat. Speeches covered the Quranic aspect of the institution of Khilafat. The Promised Messiah gave a clear indication about it in Al Waṣiyyat (The Will). Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih I (may Allah be pleased with him) had not only a firm belief in Khilafat but he also made his belief known on many occasions when he saw a group of people drifting away from it.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir gave two quotations from Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (May Allah be his helper) which he described in Germany and UK to Khuddam Majalis. Huzoor stated that the task and mission of Ahmadi Khuddam is to protect and defend the Ahmadiyya Khilafat.

Then respected Amir invited Dr. Ahmad Munir of Detroit to give his presentation on "Allah's Help and Assistance with Ahmadiyya Khilafat." Ahmad Munir spoke at length with specific incidences from Ahmadiyya history where clearly enemies of the Jamā'at thought that the community days were numbered starting from the demise of the Promised Messiah and each time during the demise of the successors of the Promised Messiah. However, each time by the sheer Help, Mercy and Support of Allah, Ahmadiyya Community continued to progress, become stronger and increased not only in size but also in faith.

Kamil Salam of the Columbus Ahmadiyya Community spoke on the blessings of Khilafat with reference to 100 years of community in the US.

He provided multiple examples of mosques built under the guidance of various Khulafa even though Ahmadiyya members were small in size and had limited resources.

Frasat Ahmad of Detroit later recited a poem and provided its English translation.

Then President of Detroit Ahmadiyya Community Maqbool Tahir thanked respected Amir for his time to join the Detroit Jamā'at members for the Khilafat Day and preside over the 2020 Khilafat day program despite his busy schedule. He then invited Dr. Abdul Qudus Shahid and Rafi Malik presidents of Dayton and Columbus respectively to make announcements related to their respective chapters.

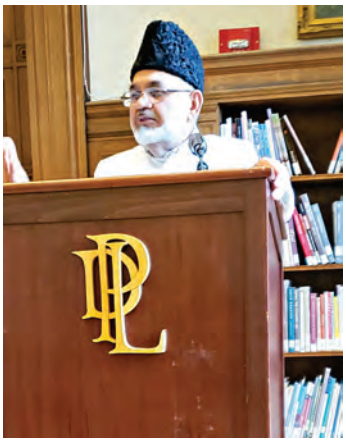
At the conclusion, respected Amir addressed the members. He drew the attention that we should be examining and reviewing our conditions, we should listen and obey the Khalifat-ul-Masih, we should follow his guidance. Offer Salat five times a day and offer all kind of sacrifices. Amir led the members in silent prayers and thanked all for attending the program. (Report: Muhammad Ahmad. Detroit Michigan USA)

# “Real Talk on Islam” held at the Main Branch of Detroit Public Library

A Real Talk on Islam was held on 11 January 2020 at Detroit Public Library at Woodward Avenue.

Library Director, Meghan McGowan welcomed the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to the library and then after a brief introduction, she invited Missionary Shamshad Nasir to present his talk on the subject.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir thanked the library administration and especially Meghan McGowan, the library director, for hosting such an event at the main branch of the library. He then welcomed and thanked the attendees. He started by providing a brief summary of the fundamental Islamic beliefs and the five pillars of Islam. “Islam means peace, when we greet each other, we say As-Salamu ‘Alaikum, which means peace be on you.” Every aspect of Islamic teaching revolves around unity of God Almighty, His worship, prayers and peace. Peace with oneself, peace with fellow human beings and peace in a home as a family and in the society. Islam is a religion of nature, every aspect of the religion, may it be the prayers, fasting, relationships, all are based on nature,” he continued to elaborate.



Islam preaches absolute justice and universal brotherhood. All the unrest and turmoil we see today in the world is due to the lack of these two elements. United States is the most powerful country in the world. So, if we don’t use this power judiciously and justly then peace can’t be established in the world. Islam teaches to deal with other nations and countries with justice and don’t allow to usurp the rights and resources of others.

At the end attendees asked questions regarding some of the rituals done during the Pilgrimage to Makkah.

One attendee asked specifically regarding women’s treatment and their rights in Islam. Yet another wanted to know more about what humanitarian activities Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is offering. Missionary Shamshad answered both questions in detail.

Then, Library Director received gift of the book “Life of Muhammad” along with four other books on Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

Attendees took books and flyers that included “Life of Muhammad,” “Islam’s Response to Contemporary Issues,” “Pathway to World Peace” and flyers on the introduction of Islam, Ahmadiyya, Jihad and other information leaflets.

After the formal proceedings, attendees had an informal conversation with Missionary Shamshad Nasir and other members

of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The misunderstandings of the guest and attendees were taken care of. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit)

## MKA Connect Report

The COVID-19 endorsed quarantines may be able to physically separate Khuddam from one another, but surely, nothing can divide their spirits. By the grace of Allah, the Almighty, Ahmadiyya Khuddam, USA, embarked on a week of brotherhood and learning, titled MKA Connects. MKA Connects, was a set of virtual, Ijtimā like sessions, that kicked-off with the opening session chaired by Sadr Majlis USA, Dr. Madeel Abdullah, on 5 April 2020, and concluded with the closing address and Question and Answer session with, Respected Amir Jamā'at USA, Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, on 12 April 2020.

The program ran for 8 consecutive days, in which different topics, relevant to Khuddam, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic were discussed and presented upon. Each day Khuddam enjoyed 2 sessions chaired by different departments of MKA USA, chaired by the respective department heads. The highlights of the week's programs include: "Our Secret Weapon Against the Virus—the Power of Prayers." "Serving Mankind at a Time of Crisis—Emulating the Spirit of 1918," "Adjusting to the Online Learning Platform," "Spreading the Message While Quarantined—Tabligh through Social Media," "Be Prepared for a Future Crisis," "Cleanliness as a Part of Faith," "Live at Home Workout and Health Tips," "Writing in the Defense of Islam," "The Financial Impact of Getting Laid Off," a program on Marriage and Chastity, and a Question and Answer session on the impact of the Corona Virus, presided by Na'ib Amir, Dr. Faheem Younus Qureshi, Chief of Infectious Disease at the University of Maryland, UCH.

Each day's program allowed Khuddam not only to learn about the topic at hand, via the before mentioned presentations, but also featured an interactive component where Khuddam were able to discuss, ask questions, and directly shape the conversation of each session. By the grace of Allah, the Almighty, the week's sessions were attended by thousands of Khuddam from across the country. The week's highlight came at the closing session, in which Respected Amir Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA addressed the Majlis on the standard that all Khuddam must hold themselves to, in order to truly fulfill their commitment of service. Respected Amir, in his session, particularly emphasized that the members of Majlis should remember that they are a unique group of individuals, unlike others in the society around. Amir reminded Khuddam that they must be living embodiments of the wishes of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah support him with His mighty help) and in all times, both of ease and difficulty, turn solely to prayer, for comfort. Amir also graciously spent over two hours answering the questions of both Khuddam and Atfāl.

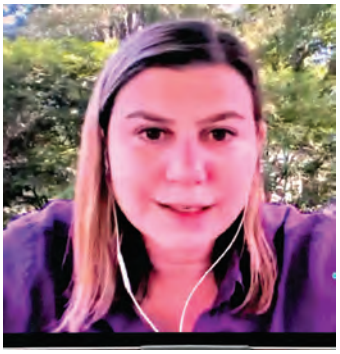
By the grace of Allah, the Almighty, the closing session was virtually attended by over 1,164 viewers. Respected Amir closed the Ijtima with the reminder to all Khuddam that the protection of Ahmadiyya Khilafat is their utmost duty, and all Khuddam should strive day and night in this cause.

## Ahmadiyya Muslims Community Detroit attends the 8th Congressional District Interfaith Round-Table with Rep. Plotkin

Missionary Shamshad Nasir of Detroit attended the 8th Congressional District Interfaith Roundtable with Rep. Plotkin on 11 June 2020.

The interfaith was organized by the Congresswoman Elissa Plotkin of Michigan's 8th district to discuss the current situation on the COVID-19 pandemic and get feedback from the interfaith communities of the area.

The program was kicked off by the congresswoman. She provided an update about the status of the COVID-19 in the state of Michigan. She summarized various actions she took as the representative from Michigan's 8th district.

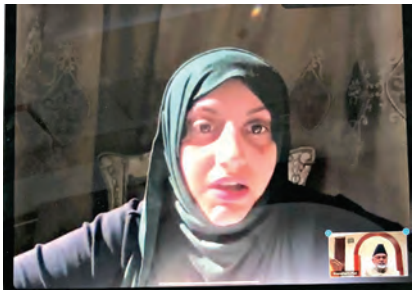


After the initial remarks, the forum was opened for questions. A representative of a local Hindu Temple inquired about how we can protect our communities from the pandemic and what would be her recommendations. To that Rep. Elissa Plotkin described the actions she has taken including the legislation push regarding the COVID-19.

Regional missionary, Shamshad Nasir in his comments thanked the representative for holding such a talk on the important issue of COVID-19 via a virtual forum and also thanked her for participating

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Detroit's centennial celebrations held on 9 May 2020.

Shamshad Nasir told the audience about the activity details of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Detroit regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have distributed food, homeopathic medicine, donated blood for the needy as part of our centennial celebration." He joined the virtual conference from Mahmood Mosque.



Muneera Farooqi a Muslim representative of IAGD commented that as Missionary Shamshad has mentioned earlier, they have been helping people in the community as well during the pandemic.

Another participant asked a question about how to go about opening safely our community buildings, community centers, and schools. Elissa Plotkin responded that we are going to wait and follow the directions from the Federal as well state authorities.

One of the participating Rabbi commented, "We should protect people of our congregations during the time of the pandemic." He referred to what Missionary has said about saying the call to Prayer in the Mosque and offering the Prayers at home. He has been doing a similar way in his synagogue.

In response to another question regarding the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of police, Rep. Elissa Plotkin said, "We are working very diligently to reform police and a lot of progress is being made via the new legislation so that police can discharge their responsibilities without any discrimination of race and color."

Another Muslim attendee, Sr. Nishat of IAGD, said, "We should be involved as to how we can help our Afro-American people in our communities."

At the end Missionary Shamshad Nasir thanked the Congresswomen for inviting and holding such a wonderful conference and led the prayers to end meeting.

There were approx. 30 representatives of various interfaith communities joined and attended this conference and by the Grace of Allah the message of Islam and Ahmadiyya was delivered during the conference. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit MI, USA)

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Detroit holds "Real Talk on Islam" at the Congregational Church of Birmingham

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Detroit held a "Real Talk on Islam" event at the Congregational Church of Birmingham-United Church of Christ on 20 October 2020. More than 80 members of the church were in attendance that included young, old and the children.

The pastor Rev. Linda Anderson kicked off the program by welcoming the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Missionary Shamshad Nasir to the congregation and provided a brief introduction of the program to the congregation. She then invited Missionary Shamshad Nasir for the Real Talk on Islam.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir started the Real Talk discussion with the recitation of the first chapter of the Holy Quran, "Surah Al-Fātiḥa" along with translation and explanations of the meaning of the prayers mentioned in Surah Al-Fātiḥa. He elaborated that God's attribute of "Al-Rahman" means that He Provides for the sustenance of

mankind without any of our efforts or asking. The attribute of "Al-Rahim" of God Almighty on the other hand means that He provides us based on our efforts and prayers. The meaning of Islam means peace, when we greet each other, we say Peace and Blessing of Allah be on you," he said.

The second point was related to obedience to parents. He narrated incidences from the various sayings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him), companions of the Holy Prophet and companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) that obedience of parents is a must in all matters except if they forbid you for worshiping or practicing the belief in God. Children listened keenly to the missionary.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir presented copy of the Holy Quran to the pastor Rev. Linda Anderson for the library church Also, copies of other literature and flyers were given to the members of the congregation. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit Michigan)

## Columbus Ohio holds Jalsa Seerat-un-Nabi

Columbus chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community held its annual Seerat-un-Nabi Day program on Sunday, 24 January 2021 via Zoom—commemorating the true character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Some guests, Dr. Michael Jenkins, President of Universal Peace Federation International and Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Regional Missionary, Great Lakes Region of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and others also attended the program.

The program started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān followed by a poem in praise of the Holy Prophet. The president of the Columbus chapter, Rafi Malik moderated the session. In his opening remarks, he explained the significance and purpose of holding the Seerat-un-Nabi day programs, saying that these programs are held to remember and appreciate the true character of the Holy Prophet and to remind ourselves how the Holy Prophet conducted himself and dealt with friends and foes, the poor, and the needy, and led by example in every aspect of his life. He said that this divinely guided great man brought about a revolution in the world and pointed out that Michael Hart—in his book, ranking the 100 most influential persons in history—ranked the Holy Prophet Muhammad as #1.

Naseer Wasim in his presentation spoke about the Holy Prophet being merciful in his daily life highlighting this overarching characteristic of the Holy Prophet towards his relatives, friends, enemies, the poor and needy. Kamil Salam related many sayings of the Holy Prophet giving insight into various aspects of everyday life. Young children also participated by melodiously singing a poem in the praise of the Holy Prophet.

The guest speaker, Dr. Michael Jenkins spoke about his interfaith experiences with Muslim communities around the globe and spoke about the significance of such efforts. Dr. Ahsan Syed gave an update of the current COVID-19 situation and the vaccine.

Kamil Slam, Qaid of local Majlis, read few Ahadith of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace be on him) about taking care the neighbors and friends orphans and needy people.

In his concluding remarks, Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Regional Missionary, thanked the guests for joining the program and mentioned his past interaction with Universal Peace Federation during his time in Houston, also mentioning a memorable conference in which he had presented a copy of the Holy Qur'ān to Rev. Moon in Korean language. Dr Jenkins acknowledged that he had remembered it.

Missionary Shamshad Ahmad Nasir highlighted the essence of holding the Seerat-un-Nabi program. He reminded that although there are efforts everywhere to establish peace, it is not possible to attain peace unless the world recognizes and accepts the Promised Messiah of this age. The program ended with silent prayer led by Shamshad Ahmed Nasir.

There were 56 individual logins to the Zoom session. Many members called in as family units and the total attendees of the program is estimated to be over 150. (Report by Rafi Malik, President Columbus Chapter)

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Columbus celebrates Muslih Mau'ūd Day

The Columbus chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community held its annual Muslih Mau'ūd Day program via Zoom on Sunday, 21 February 2021 commemorating the prophecy about the Promised Reformer.

The president of the Columbus chapter, Rafi Malik moderated the session. In his opening remarks, he talked about the significance and purpose of holding the Muslih

Mau'ūd Day programs. He explained that these programs were held to commemorate the fulfillment of a grand prophecy that was made by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) in February 1886 per divine revelation. He emphasized that this day was not held to celebrate the birth of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) and that the prophecy was made three years prior to the birth of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd.

The Urdu text of this divine prophecy was read out by Mohsin Ahmad and English translation was presented by Muhammad Usman. Other speakers highlighted various aspects of the life and achievements of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him). Kashif Inayat Ullah highlighted various attributes of the Promised Son mentioned in the prophecy and spoke about the life of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) who became Caliph at the age of 25. He also highlighted the tremendous achievements during his Khilafat that spans over 50 years. Javed Malik shared glimpses from the holy life of the Promised Son sharing many inspirational accounts.

In his concluding remarks, local president, Rafi Malik urged members to share their experiences of the Jamā'at meetings with those members who weren't able to attend and encourage them to attend such meetings as these are Majalis where Allah Almighty is remembered and according to a Hadith, Allah's angels descend on Majalis where Allah is being remembered.

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Detroit celebrates Muslih Mau'ūd Day

Detroit and Dayton Chapters celebrated the 2021 Muslih Mau'ūd Day on 21 February 2021. This years' Muslih Mau'ūd Day was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on gatherings.

President Chapter, Maqbool Tahir, welcomed and thanked members for joining the program. Describing the background and the significance of the Muslih Mau'ūd Day, President mentioned, "Today's celebrations are not the birthday celebrations, rather we are here to celebrate the fulfillment of the Hazrat Promised Messiah's grand prophecy regarding the Promised Reformer and the Promised Son that was fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), the second Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community."

Speakers highlighted the prophecy.

Mutahir Ahmad described key accomplishments of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him). When he became second Caliph, there were only two "annas" (1/8th of Pakistani or Indian Rupee) in the community's treasury. There was eighteen thousand rupees of loan. These were the circumstances under which Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd took the responsibility and pledged to carry forward the mission of the Promised Messiah. He was bestowed an extraordinary knowledge of the Holy Quran by Allah Almighty that no one could compete with him.

Naeem Lughmani then presented on the topic of "Establishment of the Nizam-e-Jamā'at." He elaborated the purpose and importance of the Nizam-e-Jamā'at. Naeem Lughmani mentioned that one of the greatest accomplishments of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd was the organization of the Nizam-e-Jamā'at as we see it today. He highlighted the structure of the Jamā'at including the auxiliaries. Later he provided examples of the blessings of the Nizam-e-Jamā'at including our responsibilities towards the Nizam-e-Jamā'at.

Then, President of the chapter invited Hajra Ahmad for a poem written by Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd which she recited melodiously. Br. Abdul Shukoor then presented his speech on the topic of "A Message of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II to the US Ahmadiyya Community." He read this message from the letter that was sent by Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd to the US members on the occasion of the 1949 Annual Convention held in Dayton, Ohio. Br. Shukoor highlighted many points in the message of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd stating that these clearly indicate not only his secular knowledge but also his deep Love of God.

Usman Mangla led an interesting quiz session using Kahoot in which members participated and answered the questions. Young members particularly participated in the quiz where questions regarding the life of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd were covered.

Nasir Bukhari spoke on the topic of "Strengthening of the Institution of Khilafat." He presented very interesting facts and incidents from the early days of the Ahmadiyya Community when Hazrat Khalifat-ul- Masih I passed away and many elders wanted to delay or postpone the election of the new Caliph. They instead wanted to have Jamā'at's administration under Anjuman. Despite all the odds against Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd, the then young Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) stood firm and pledged to carry forward the mission of the Promised Messiah.

The concluding remarks were presented by Missionary Shamshad

Nasir. He started by thanking all the presenters. He then mentioned that I would like to present some of the incidents that took place during the life of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd that show his love with Allah, love with the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and love with the Ahmadiyya Muslim.

First such incident Missionary narrated was from Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) who was sent to the US on February 15. He narrates that Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd was 10 years old, he used to go to the Masjid and he would be praying for long hours and crying and weeping before Allah.

Once, Ghulam Ahmad a new Muslim decided to say his Tahajjud at Mubarak Mosque, when he entered the mosque, it was dark, and he heard someone in the mosque. When he started his prayer, he heard the other person praying and crying. After some time he saw that it was Mirza Mahmud and he asked him what he was praying about. He replied that he was praying, "O' God! Show revival of Islam in my lifetime."

Another incident where Syed Abdul Razzaq narrates that once after the salat was over, Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd asked someone to close the door, counted all the young boys and kept some with him and sent some with Maulawi Sarwar Shah. He then asked if they knew the Salat with meaning. He then advised the Khuddam that those who would have the habit of offering their Salat in congregation will not be ruined.

When Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd married his son, Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah showers His mercy on him) in 1934, he invited around one thousand people for Walima, however more than two thousand people showed up to the wedding thinking it's a blessed occasion and they can partake the blessings and came without the invitation. Huzoor became worried as the food arrangements were made only for one thousand and four hundred people. He asked more than six hindered people to leave. He delivered next Friday Sermon on this issue and advised the community to avoid these kinds of mistakes that could cause problems for the host.

In another incident, Abd-ur-Rahman Khadim stated that once Maulawi Zafar Khan who was an opponent of the community came to deliver a speech. Khadim asked him to denounce his false allegations he had levied during his previous discourse which made Maulawi Zafar Ali Khan angry, and he left without delivering his speech.

Later Abd-ur-Rahman Khadim wrote a letter to Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd describing the incident. Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd replied via a letter that he wasn't happy at all with the incident and rather was very upset and wrote that Islam did not permit this kind of treatment to the elders of other faiths. He then said that he would not pardon him until he sought the pardon from Maulawi Zafar Ali Khan. Abd-ur-Rahman then took the letter to Maulawi Zafar Ali Khan and when he read the letter to him, tears started to come to Maulawi Zafar Ali Khan's eyes and he said that this kind of conduct was only seen from the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and his companions.

In another incident when Huzoor sent his son Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad to England just after a month of his marriage, Huzoor advised, "I am not sending you to London because they have a better education. The fountain of true knowledge and education is the Holy Quran."

More than 130 families and over 400 members joined the program. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit USA)

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, USA, hosts a live webinar entitled "Muhammad—the Champion of Racial Justice and Equality"

If you turn on the television today and flip to your preferred news network, it seems that, more often than not, you are greeted by another disheartening report on racial injustice, brutality, or inequality somewhere in the US. This is the sad reality that millions of Americans face every day, but how long can this continue? When it seems that there has been some change, whether it be through demonstrations or legislation, again, the country is made witness to another tragic incident. Amongst the violence, the tragedy, the injustice and inequality, the country begs for an answer—a solution to our problem. But who is bold enough to claim that they have the answer? Today, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, USA, valiantly proclaims to our fellow citizens that we have the answer, the one true solution to ending racism in America: and that is to reflect upon and follow the example of our Master, the true champion of racial justice and equality, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessing of Allah be upon him). It is only by adopting the teachings of the Prophet, by following His example, that this country, this world, can finally break free from the shackles of injustice that have been holding it back.

It is with this bold proclamation in mind that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, USA, hosted a live webinar entitled "Muhammad—the Champion of Racial Justice and Equality" on 3 April 2021. MKA USA invited a group of esteemed panelists, who, through their differing experiences, could paint the multilayer and comprehensive picture of the perfect teachings of Islam. MKA USA was joined by Professor Craig Considine, a Sociologist and a non-Muslim scholar and expert on the Life of the Holy Prophet from Rice University in Houston, Texas, Missionary Abdullah Dibba from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and brother Abdul-Hai Dawud Bajwa Thomas, who converted to Islam Ahmadiyyat in March 2012.

The three panelists presented varying takes on how, from their perspective, they see the teachings of the Holy Prophet (may peace be upon him) impacting the world today. First, brother Abdul-Hai Dawud Bajwa Thomas discussed the impact of the Holy Prophet on his individual life, how these teachings encouraged him to rethink race, and how he learned through the example of the Holy Prophet what true racial justice would mean to him. Missionary Abdullah Dibba went over the impact that the Holy Prophet had in Arabia, and how he transformed an otherwise savage and harsh society into a group of model citizens, champions of justice and equality in their own right. Finally, Professor Craig Considine discussed the crucial topic of what America can learn from the teachings of the Prophet of Islam and how this country and the world can benefit from these perfect teachings. Following the formal presentations, the panelists had a 45-minute round table discussion where contemporary issues and their solutions, through the Holy Prophet were discussed, as moderated by Missionary Frasat Ahmad. The topics discussed were the Derick Chauvin trials, police brutality, institutional racism, the adoption of the teachings of the Holy Prophet in a secular society, how to introduce our teachings to Western Societies, amongst many other important topics. By the grace of Allah, the Almighty, Khuddam Majlis was joined live by 868 brothers, sisters, and Tabligh guests. The program was later viewed on YouTube by over 1,600 people. The program was our humble attempt at educating our members and the greater public on the perfect teachings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and will In-Sha'-Allah be one of many presented and hosted by Ahmadiyya Khuddam Majlis, USA. (Report by Ahtesham Najeeb Chaudhry, Mohtamim Talim, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA)

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Boston Chapter celebrates the Promised Messiah Day

By the grace of Allah, the Boston Chapter was blessed to be able to hold convention on the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) over zoom on 20 March 2021.

The Program began with recitation from the Holy Quran by Muneeb Sharif, who recited verses 1-4 from Surah Al-Jumu'ah followed by the English translation. This was subsequently followed by a poem of the Promised Messiah, "Noor-e-Furqan" and its translation recited by Maqbool Saeed Babar.

The first speech was delivered by a Ṭifl, Danial Ahmad. His speech, "The Promised Messiah—the Man, the Message, and the Movement" detailed the life of the Promised Messiah and the steps taken to initiate the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The next presentation, titled "The First condition of Bai'at and Its Relevance in The Modern Age" was delivered by Asif Jamil. The speaker used a PowerPoint presentation and eloquently elaborated various aspects, especially idolatry (shirk) and explaining various ways by which it manifests itself in daily life and how to take active measures to avoid it. With interactive questions initiated by the speaker, the presentation engaged the audience and led to fruitful discourse.

The keynote speech delivered by Missionary Salman Tariq. He detailed the purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah with respect to revitalizing the teachings of Islam. He discussed the dangers of religious innovations and how idolatry (shirk) can manifest itself in them, drawing specific examples towards extravagant wedding functions, celebrating birthdays and holding graduation parties, etc. He emphasized that extravagance should be avoided even in such functions which are permissible.

After this local President Chapter, Dr. Karim Sharif gave his concluding remarks. President presented a slideshow of pictures of historical sites in Qadian where the Promised Messiah had claimed to be the Messiah. He presented different views of old Qadian, the train station, the "Gol Kamra" (Round Room), Mubarak Mosque, Noor Mosque, and the house of the Promised Messiah. He then drew the attention of the audience that it is evident from these pictures how Qadian was a remote village with no worldly resources or amenities of modern life, where Allah revealed to him, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth." This would seem a task impossible. But we are witnessing its grand fulfilment today all over the world where the message of the Promised Messiah has reached and established on firm grounds in over 200 countries. To that end, Ahmadiyya Community USA made a national plan to spread the message of the Promised Messiah by showing "The Messiah has Come" sign boards. He announced that Boston Chapter will join this blessed effort and he requested all men to join so that they too become an instrument in the fulfillment of this great prophecy. Then he opened a question answer session, where members asked questions pertaining to the forgiveness of shirk (idolatry), the nature of Jinn, Satan, Iblis, and whether Adam (may peace be oh him) was the first man on earth. The question answer session continued for over half an hour and was well appreciated by the attendees. The program ended with silent prayer led by respected Missionary Salman Tariq.

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Detroit Celebrates 2021 Eid-ul-Fitr

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Detroit celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on 13 May 2021 at Mahmood Mosque. Due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions, a limited number of members were able to join the Eid Prayers.

In keeping with the traditions, regional Missionary Maulana Shamshad Nasir delivered his daily Dars during the entire month of Ramadan. Members from Columbus, Detroit, Dayton, and many other chapters joined during these Dars (Quranic, Hadith and teachings from Malfūzāt of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him) sessions that lasted for more than an hour on a daily basis. Overall attendance remained very good with large participation from all Midwest chapters.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir led the Eid Prayers and delivered the Eid Sermon. In his sermon, he said, "By the Grace of Allah, we have just concluded successfully the month of Ramadan one more time in our lives. We are so thankful to Allah Almighty who has given us the opportunity to avail the month of Ramadan this year."

This month teaches us patience, regularity in prayers and helping the less fortunate. Although the month has ended, we must continue the habits of regular prayers and paying our obligatory contributions.

Missionary read some passages from Eid sermon of Khalifat-ul-Masih V.

At the end Missionary read a letter containing an Eid message from respected Amir Jamā'at USA, Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad . He said, "I wish you Eid Mubarak. May Allah grant you His pleasure and lasting happiness. I would like to share with you a few words from the Eid-ul-Fitr sermon delivered by Hazrat Muslih Mau'ud, Khalifatul-Masih II, on June 8, 1921, in Qadian, India: "So the true Eid is to connect with God and to meet Him. When that happens, there is no blessing that cannot be achieved and no pleasure that is not attainable, indeed, for such a person, every single moment is an Eid."

Conveying the Eid Mubarak message, President Maqbool Tahir said, "Eid Mubarak to all of you, May

Allah make it a blessed day for all of us and continue the blessings of Ramadan and guide us to the path of His Pleasure. I would like to especially thank Missionary Shamshad Nasir for preparing and delivering the daily Dars. Although the daily Dars was for an hour, he has spent countless hours preparing the Dars."

Although lunch arrangements couldn't be made due to the Covid situation, the community made arrangements for the traditional sweets. The sweets boxes were given to each family after the Eid Prayers to share the happiness of the occasion. Many volunteers worked tirelessly to make these arrangements for Eid Prayers as well as the sweets gift packs. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit Michigan USA)

## MKA USA Hosts "Faith and Basketball"

Ahmadiyya Khuddam USA hosted their "Faith and Basketball" program on 16 May 2021.

The program was moderated by Secretary Umur-e-Kharijah (Public Affairs) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA: Amjad Mahmood Khan, and Southeast Regional Qa'id MKA USA, Abdul Hai Thomas. The esteemed panel included Abdul Shakur Ahmad. Abdul Shakur played basketball at Wright State University in Dayton and converted to Ahmadiyyat in 1979. Additionally, Usman Jamil, who served as Muhtamim Sihhat-e-Jismānī (Body health) MKA USA from 2013-17, was included in the panel. Usman's experiences include playing college basketball, being a high school head coach, and organizing many basketball camps on both a Jamā'at and non-Jamā'at level. He plays a role in the highly successful Ahmadiyya Basketball Camps that take place around the world. The final member of the panel was Mahershala Ali, who played division 1 college basketball and is a member of the Los Angeles Jamā'at.

The program was live-streamed on YouTube, and over 100 viewers tuned in. Following the program, clips from the session earned tens of thousands of views. The full program can still be watched online via the MuslimYouthUSA YouTube Channel. The program opened with Tilāwat by Nasar Ahmad from New York.

During the program, Abdul Shakoor reflected on how the discipline and work ethic he learned from playing basketball translated to him fulfilling his responsibilities of being an Ahmadi Muslim. He said:

"... Now, I'm not on a team playing basketball, but I'm on team Ahmadiyya, wanting to convey this message that Huzoor said in Khutbah for Eid: La Ilaha Illallah (there is none worthy of worship except Allah). That's the message."

Usman Jamil highlighted the importance of sacrifice and its relevance in basketball and faith. He made a parallel between the physical sacrifices God imposes on us by giving the example of Ramadan, and how those sacrifices lead to spiritual progress, and the "mamba mentality" introduced by the late Kobe Bryant, who sacrificed so much physically by putting in hours practicing in order to become one of the greatest basketball players.

Mahershala Ali shared a personal story on the same subject, where he was offered two scholarships from two different universities. One university expected him to be part of a system with fewer shots and more passing, while the other wanted him to take the lead and take more shots. In his youthful innocence, he chose the school that offered him more shots, while the other school he denied gave that same scholarship to a "soccer player" from Canada. Mahershala shared how he would chase after this kid off pick and rolls for the next four years. That kid was Steve Nash, who went on to win 2 Most Valuable Player awards in the NBA, and Mahershala Ali highlighted how Steve Nash chose a sacrifice upfront which led him to that success.

Many other topics were covered with both panelists and moderators. The discussion concluded with all the panelists sharing their current top players and all-time favorites. Before the discussion ended, Usman Jamil said: "My GOAL [greatest of all time] when we talk about basketball and faith is Maulana Azhar Haneef. He was as skilled as they get, and for him to walk away from that and dedicate his life [to his faith] and to grow spiritually, come on now."

Before concluding, Amjad Mahmood Khan shared that there were live viewers from Canada, London, and Fazl-e-'Umar Basketball club from Rabwah, Pakistan. (Report by Rahman Nasir, Mohtamim Sihhat-e-Jismānī, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA)

## Eid-ul-Adha Celebrated at Mahmood Mosque Detroit

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Detroit, celebrated the 2021 Eid-ul-Adha on 20 July 2021 at Mahmood Mosque.

In abundance of caution, members were required to pre-register and wear face masks for attending the Eid Prayers at the masjid. Not only guidelines for attending the Eid Prayers were provided in advance to members, but members also pre-registered to offer the Eid Prayers. Additionally, members were asked to use caution and not shake hands along with refraining from the traditional embracing while extending the Eid greetings.

Missionary Shamshad Nasir led the Eid-ul-Adha Prayers that followed with the Eid Sermon. Missionary narrated the significance of the Eid-ul-Adha. We celebrate Eid-ul-Adha in commemoration of the sacrifice that Hazrat Ibrahim (may peace be on him) offered. For those who couldn't go for the Hajj, Eid Prayers and sacrifice of the animal is prescribed while those travelling to Makkah, Hajj and its rituals are prescribed. Missionary Shamshad said, "Just imagine the kind of sacrifice that Hazrat Ibrahim offered when he left his wife Hazrat Hajirah and his son Ishmael in the barren desert of Arabia where there were no shopping centers, malls, cars or public transport so much so that there was no food or water either. He continued that we can't even think of the patience both Hazrat Hajirah and Hazrat Ismael offered during this sacrifice by simply relying on the "Trust on God." While we celebrate Eid-ul-Adha in commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's absolute dedication to Allah, we must look and analyze ourselves as to where we stand and if we are making any effort to obey the commandments of Allah.

Following the Eid Sermon, Missionary read out a message from respected Amir USA, Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad. Amir while conveying his Eid Mubarak also pointed to a passage from Hazrat Muslih Mau'ud's Eid Sermon that he delivered in Qadian on 20 October 1915:

"When the animal is being sacrificed, a believer affirms that, like this lamb who has lowered his head, in the same way, I am willing to kill my personal desires, O my Lord, to give precedence to your will. And this is the very thing that God desires of people at the advent of every prophet and this is the true Eid which every believer should wish for. May Allah enable us to sacrifice our selfish desires, to rid us of our weaknesses, and to nurture in us pure love for Him. May we become the recipients of those favors bestowed upon the most righteous of His people. May we join those who celebrate Eid under the shade of Allah's mercy and are free of all afflictions, an Eid on which the sun does not set. Amen."

Later Missionary led silent prayers to conclude the event.

Members then conveyed the traditional Eid Mubarak greetings to each other and proceeded to the Gym area where a delicious lunch prepared by the Ziyafat team was served. (Report by Muhammad Ahmad, Detroit Michigan USA)

## Ameen Ceremony of Khadijah Sadiya Zahir Mannan

By the grace and mercy of Allah, Khadijah Sadiya Zahir Mannan (aged 8) and Elyas Mahir Mannan (aged 7) have completed their first recitation of the Holy Qur'ān this Ramadan. They are the great, great, great grandchildren of Hazrat Milan Chiragh Deen (may Allah be pleased with him) of Lahore, Pakistan. Ameen ceremony took place on 22 May 2020.

I was also enabled by Allah Ta'ālā to pen an OPED about this in our local hometown newspaper.

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.middletownpress.com/opinion/amp/Forum-Historic-Eid-ul-Fitr-and-the-completion-of-15283532.php.

(Milan Zahir Muhammad Mannan & Syeda Sana Khalid Shah)

## Syeda Nusrat Zain passes away

President Orlando Chapter has informed: With a heavy heart, I inform you of the passing of Syeda Nusrat Zain (Musiyya) w/o Major Zainul Abedin and mother of Amin Ahmad Zain from Orlando Chapter. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. Janāza was offered on 31 August 2020. (Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi, General Secretary Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA)

## Abdul Hafeez passes away

I regret to inform you that Abdul Hafeez Choudhary, cousin of Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq (also his wife's brother) passed away in Toronto after a yearlong battle with cancer. Inna Lillāhi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon. He was 80 years old, and was retired Vice President of National Bank of Pakistan. He migrated to Canada in 2016. May Allah grant him an elevated status in Jannat-ul-Firdaus and may his soul

rest in peace. May Allah grant patience and strength to all of the family members to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen.

Please remember Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq and his family in your prayers. (Jamil Ahmad President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Minnesota Chapter)

## Noorul Haq Khan, First President of Columbus OH Chapter, passes away

It is with great sadness that I convey the passing of my husband's (Dr. Shahzaib Anwar) maternal Grandfather Noorul Haq Khan on January 13, 2021 at the age of 95 (1925-2021). Inna Lillāhi wa Innā ilaihi Raji'oon. Verily, to Allah do we belong, and to Allah do we return.

Noorul Haq Khan (noorulhaq.com) was born near Qadian and was the son of Hazrat Mubarak Ali Sultan Bakhsh of Theh Ghulam Nabi, (1880-1961), who attended Jalsa Salana Qadian 1892 during the time of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him). Khan migrated to East Africa, later returning to Qadian for education at the age of 10 in response to the demands of Tahrik-e-Jadīd. It was there that he had the opportunity to live among many companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), including Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him). He had the fortune of meeting Hazrat Amman Jan (may Allah be pleased with him) and had spent many years close to Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him). He was a student in Qadian when Sahibzada Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah shower His mercy on him) (Khalifatul-Masih III) was headmaster of the school. He was also classmate of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) in Qadian.

He graduated from Lyallpur Agricultural College in 1950 and worked as an education officer in East Africa for 30 years. In 1987, he and his family moved to Columbus, OH, and, at the request of then-Amir Shaikh Mubarak Ahmed, founded the local Jamā'at. During his 33 years in Columbus, he spent his time occupied in the study of the Holy Qur'ān. In 2020, he completed a commentary of the Holy Qur'ān, comparing and contrasting 15 commentaries in a single source (noorulhaq.com/holy-quran-commentary/).

During the partition of India, while in Qadian, he saw refugees setting old papers on fire in the house of Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him). He recognized many handwritten notes and writings of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), which he saved and sent to Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah support him) in 2018. Included amongst those was the revelation "Innī Ma'aka Ya Masroor."

Noorul Haq Khan is survived by his wife, Amatul Aziz Bushra Khanam, daughter of Hazrat Faizul Haq Khan (may Allah be pleased with him), and his 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. May Allah grant him a high status in Heavenly Paradise, Ameen (Dr. Munira (Shera) Rahman Anwar daughter of Shamsur Rahman of Los Angeles Chapter.

## Mrs. Hamidah Akhtar Saleem passes away

My dearest Ammi Jan, Hamidah Akhtar Saleem, wife of Abdur Rehman Saleem, passed away on January 19, 2021 at age 92, in Columbus, Ohio. Inna Lillāhi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon.

She was buried on 20 January 2021 next to her beloved husband in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery (in the Bait-un-Nasir Mosque compound), Columbus, Ohio.

Ammi Jan was born on December 10, 1928 in Eminabad (A town near Gujranwala Pakistan), to Malik Mohammad Din and Zohra Khatoon. Her parents accepted Ahmadiyyat, in their teens, in the Second Khilafat. She completed her BA degree from Government College, Lahore, Pakistan in 1946. She was married in 1947 and moved to Delhi. She lived with her beloved husband for 70+ years till his demise on November 10, 2017. After partition of India, she moved to Karachi where she had 8 children (6 boys and 2 daughters). She moved to Rawalpindi in 1972 and then to Islamabad in 1982. She visited the USA in 1978 and then migrated to the USA in 1987 where she lived with her children in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Ammi Jan was a devout Ahmadi and a Mūṣiyya with a deep, sincere and selfless attachment to Khilafat and Nizam-e-Jamā'at. Her house in Karachi was a Salat Center for several years. She was God fearing, disciplined, selfless, fearless, tireless, resilient and compassionate (for family, friends and strangers

alike). Regularity in salaat and recitation of the Holy Qur'ān was in her DNA. She served Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for 50+ years (in Karachi, Islamabad and then in Philadelphia). Tarbiyat of self and others was her forte, spiritual and educational excellence was her counsel. She put her trust in Allah and dedicated her life and leisure for her family and Jamāʻat.

She instilled these attributes in her children, siblings and others around her through her enviable personal example. She is survived by 7 children (5 sons and 2 daughters) and 49 grand and great-grand-children in the USA, UK, and Ireland. Allah blessed her with an offspring that includes one waqif-e-zindagi (life-devotee), 13 Waqifeen-e-Nau, several former and current servants of Jamāʻat and Auxiliary organizations, doctors, lawyers, engineers, educators and businessmen.

May Allah bless her with high status in the Heaven and enable her offspring to excel in goodness and service to Ahmadiyyat. Ameen. (Nasir Mahmood Malik)

# The Call of Messiah Ahmad

**Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani (ʻAlaih-is-Salām)**

**Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar Ex Amir Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA**

The purpose of faith is to develop the ability to always be aware/see God in the mind's eye or have that deep feeling that He is always aware of/seeing you.

Messiah Ahmad (may peace be on him) illustrates that path by how one's accepting him as the Messiah of Rasūlullāh, and practicing the Islamic teachings, invites divine Grace and creates that connecting bridge.

This gives a purpose for the proscribed prayers and practices, which are defined in the Quran and illuminated by the Sunna and teachings of Rasūlullāh.

The Messiah left this physical presence a hundred years ago, according to Divine dictates of Allah's final Message, given to us by Prophet Muhammad Rasūlullāh (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). But he has left us rich discussions for our right path, and avoidance of the path of those who lost their way even after receiving the right teachings by their Prophets.

Our young and old all need to understand that the purpose of Islamic teachings is to observe that path of ISLAM, so as to attain that goal described in the Quranic teachings.

There is a Hadith narrating how Jibril (may peace be on him) came and sat down, joining his knees to those of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and their conversation touched on Islam belief in one God, Angels, Prophets, Mohammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) as his messenger, the day of Judgment, and again Eeman (Belief in Allah as the one God, Salat, Fasting, Zakat,).

The next stage of Ehsaan, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) described that as the one being in a state of seeing Allah all the time or alternatively feeling he is under the gaze of the Almighty all the time.

This final state of existence is what we all need to aspire towards. May Allah Grant us all that status, and may he be our Protector on the day Of Judgment, thereby. *Ameen*

These times are for attachment with Khilafat, which is the real way to feel and gain the teachings of Masih Mauʻūd (may peace be on him). The maximum benefit is where we all come together and strive as a group.

In the age of Quantum understanding, God is there only if a man sees Him. The discussion of scientists to see God as proof is irrelevant. If such major achievements of these times are based on rules that any particle is there only if we see it, then it is for man to develop the status of 'Ehsaan' and develop the eyes to see Him that way.

Every individual needs to find this belief for himself, and then join the Successor Khalifa for the maximum.

The Muslim Sunrise team is looking to collect all past issues of the historic publication. In the last year alone, we have located nearly 10 missing issues. Please take five minutes to perform these three easy steps:

1. Gather together all your pre-2006 issues
2. Check to see if each one is uploaded on our Past Issues webpage
3. Write to archives@muslimsunrise.com if you have an issue that is not uploaded

Please help us preserve this rich history before it is lost. Thank you.

# What Does "Centennial Day" Mean for Us

**Amjad Mahmood Khan, Los Angeles, California**
**National Secretary Public Affairs Department, USA**

T A H A J J U D
Centennial Day
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY USA
1920–2020 CENTENNIAL
2.15.2020
Join 10,000 Ahmadi Muslims across America for Tahajjud.
One nation. One night. Let's make history.
Centennial Day 2.15.2020.
#100YearMovement
وَمِنَ الَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهٖ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ ۖ عَسٰٓى اَنْ يَّبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُوْدًا ﴿٨٠﴾
"And wake up for it in the latter part of the night as a supererogatory service for thee. It may be that thy Lord will raise thee to an exalted station."
Qur'an (17:80)
Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) leading prayers in London, UK, on September 23, 1924.

It was the Summer of 1989, I was an 11-year-old kid on vacation visiting Pakistan with my family. I clung close to my father as he took me on a tour of the streets of Rabwah—a burgeoning, dusty town full of life and vigor, and with Ahmadi Muslims, like me, all around. I had heard so much about Rabwah prior to visiting it for the first time—the blessed headquarters of our Jamā'at, with numerous mosques; the historic Jami'a University; inspirational Ahmadi Muslim professionals devoting

themselves to caring for the poor and needy; and, of course, the sacred Bahishtī Maqbarah—the heavenly graveyard wherein lay the graves of prior Khulafa and distinguished servants of the Jamā'at.

My interactions did not disappoint. I marveled at meeting Dost Muhammad Shahid, the Jamā'at historian, who took us to his residence full of books as far as my eye could see. I enjoyed thumbing through old newspapers at the Khilafat Library with the chief librarian giving me a crash course in how Rabwah corresponds with U.S. universities. I saw Jami'a students playing a fierce game of basketball, and peering closer met for the very first time our distinguished Missionary in Charge, Azhar Haneef, then a final year student at Jami'ah—dunking the ball to the delight of onlookers.

And yet—as I spent a few days enjoying life in an Ahmadi Muslim town, I could not help but notice something that unnerved me. On each block corner, I saw signboards lay to waste; strings of festive lights ripped down from their fasteners, draped low; and the word "Centenary" and the symbol of the minaret blacked out. Every house, office and mosque I visited had the same eerie appearance of a structure that a prior celebration had once undoubtedly enlivened. I soon learned that months earlier, Rabwah had celebrated the 100-year centenary of our Jamā'at—as all Ahmadi Muslims had done all around the world. In the wake of this celebration, anti-Ahmadi extremists had raised an uproar, causing the entire town of Rabwah to face grave charges of "blasphemy" and ultimately led to the forcible removal of all possible indications of celebration.

I was an American kid passing through a Pakistani ghost town, and I did not even know it—not a ghost town of the kind I watched on television with no people and rolling tumbleweeds, but something more hidden, though equally galling: a town of people and homes that were once illuminated in lights and luster, now made to cloister in the quiet solitude of their own faith. On the faces of every Ahmadi man, woman and child, I saw expressions of contentment and courage—so pronounced, in fact, that I initially could not even notice a deeper pain in their hearts: the inability to let their neighbors know who they were. It was my first encounter with the unforgiving grip of an unjust law: the forcible deprivation of an Ahmadi's conscience.

Over 30 years later, I reflect back on those few days on the streets of Rabwah, and I am unable to forget some indelible images. I cannot forget seeing tears stream down my grandmother's face as she recounted how extremists had prevented hundreds of thousands of Ahmadi Muslims from having a single day of celebration in their homes for the Jamā'at's centenary. I cannot forget speaking broken Urdu to a child of my age who was playing soccer near the streets of Gol Bazaar, and him telling me that they could not talk about the Jamā'at Centenary in the public. I cannot forget seeing nervous shopkeepers covering the 1989 worldwide Centenary logo on their posters.

2020 marks the Centennial year of the USA Jamā'at —in a few days, we will be celebrating "Centennial Day" on February 15th to mark the 100th year that Hazrat Mufti Sadiq landed in Philadelphia. While we prepare for this day living in the generous comforts this country affords us in our spacious homes, comfortable cars and open mosques—it is very easy to see this day as just another Saturday in America where we spare a few hours for a Jamā'at meeting. But 12,000 miles away, our dear Ahmadi Muslim brothers and sisters remain deprived of any ability to share in any celebration of our Jamā'at —be it the 1989 Centenary, the Khilafat Centenary in 2008 or any other historic milestone. Let us celebrate 'Centennial Day' knowing full well that this is a precious and immense privilege afforded us.

Let us celebrate Centennial Day showing our immense gratitude to Allah that our country—America—has enshrined religious freedom for all and preserved our unrestricted freedom to showcase our Ahmadi Muslim identities in private and in public, at our mosques and mission houses and in our front yards. Let us celebrate in honor of our Ahmadi Muslim brothers and sisters in Pakistan (and other parts of the world) who cannot fasten a festive light to the walls of their homes or hand a balloon to their children. Let us educate our children about who we are as one Jamā'at and one nation among thousands. Let us encourage our fellow American Ahmadi Muslims to appreciate the history of our forefathers who sacrificed everything they had to introduce Ahmadiyyat in America so that we can be alive to witness the 100th year of our movement. Let us not treat February 15th as just another Saturday. Let us wake up in the dead of night on that day with our eyes welling in tears thanking Allah for being alive to witness history.

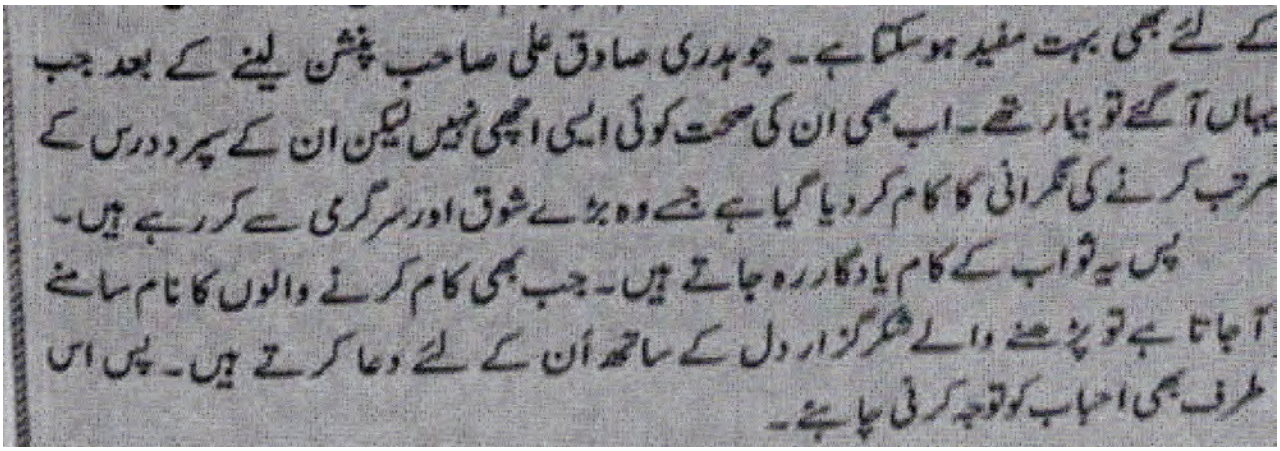
May Allah forgive our shortcomings and bless our meager efforts in His cause. May we witness the next century of Ahmadiyyat in America as humble water carriers and expendable foot soldiers for Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah support him with His mighty help). In-Sha'-Allah. Ameen.

# In Memory of Sadiq Ali

**Prepared by Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar, Ex Amir Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA**

My grandfather Chaudhry Sadiq Ali was a student in Islamia College Lahore in the 1890's. While there he heard about Masih Mau'ūd (may peace be on him) coming to Lahore and giving a speech at local Jalsa. He wanted to go to attend but was held back by one of the teachers at the college. He missed out on seeing the Prophet awaited by the untold millions for over more than a thousand years. In later years, this was something he regretted, always.

In 1910 he went to Qadian ostensibly for treatment from Khalifa I (may Allah be pleased with him) but was hooked to Ahmadiyyat forever. He found the Light of *Ruh-ul-Quds* that he had missed getting from the Messiah (may peace be on him) and found it with the next two Khulafa (may Allah be pleased with them). Upon retirement as Tehsildar, he moved his family to Qadian and stayed there till his death in 1938. His dedication is mentioned in this excerpt from the Mushāwarat of 1936, where Khalifatul-Masih II recognized him, in Huzoor's words:

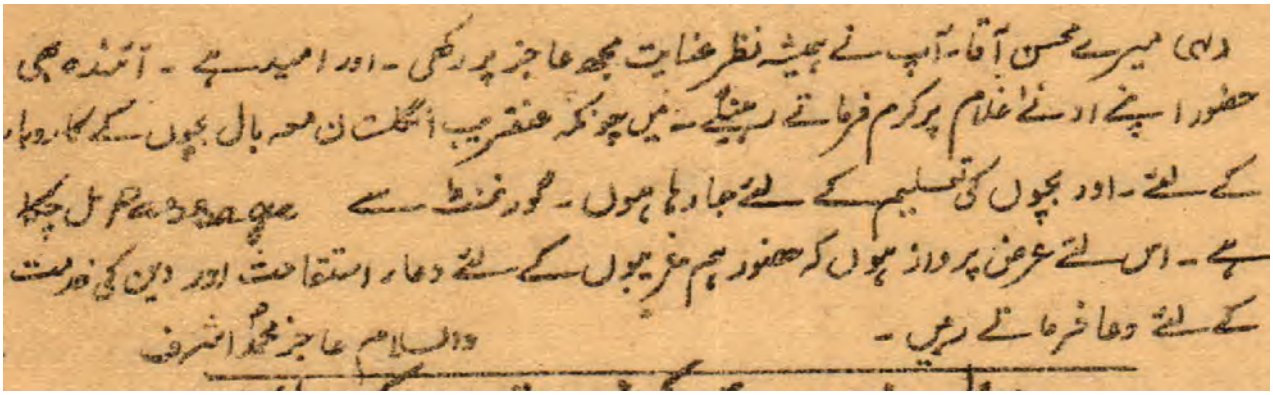


کے لئے بھی بہت مفید ہو سکتا ہے۔ چوہدری صادق علی صاحب پنشن لینے کے بعد جب
یہاں آ گئے تو بیمار تھے۔ اب بھی ان کی صحت کوئی ایسی اچھی نہیں لیکن ان کے سپرد درس کے
مرتب کرنے کی نگرانی کا کام کر دیا گیا ہے جسے وہ بڑے شوق اور سرگرمی سے کر رہے ہیں۔
پس یہ ثواب کے کام یادگار رہ جاتے ہیں۔ جب بھی کام کرنے والوں کا نام سامنے
آ جاتا ہے تو پڑھنے والے شکر گزار دل کے ساتھ ان کے لئے دعا کرتے ہیں۔ پس اس
طرف بھی احباب کو توجہ کرنی چاہیے۔

His Janāza was led by and shouldered by Khalifatul-Masih II for burial in Bahishtī Maqbarah in Qadian.

Farther back, his father Chaudhry Subey Khan Warriach was probably born around the time of the Mutiny of 1857 and saw the coming British Raj praised by Masih Mau'ūd (may peace be on him). He was unaware of the Messiah (may peace be on him). He was aware of the need for integration into the new Order and sent his only son away from their home and village (*Behlpur*) to study in Lahore. Here he got the qualifications and ended up as Tehsildar. Notwithstanding the tradition established by their grandfather Subey Khan, among his five sons Zafrullah (*Marhoom*) was the only one who received B.A. while the others could not.

His oldest son Mohammad Ashraf had the opportunity to follow his father as follows: he arrived in London immediately after the Second War, but had written the following to Khalifatul-Masih II just as he was leaving India:



(۱۲) میرے محسن آقا۔ آپ نے ہمیشہ نظر عنایت مجھ عاجز پر رکھی۔ اور امید ہے۔ آئندہ بھی
حضور اپنے ادنےٰ غلام پر کرم فرماتے رہینگے۔ میں چونکہ عنقریب انگلستان معہ بال بچوں کے کاروبار
کے لئے۔ اور بچوں کی تعلیم کے لئے جا رہا ہوں۔ گورنمنٹ سے Passage حاصل کر چکا
ہے۔ اس لئے عرض پرداز ہوں کہ حضور ہم غریبوں کے لئے دعا، استقامت اور دین کی خدمت
کے لئے دعا فرماتے رہیں۔
والسلام عاجز محمد اشرف

At the partition and end of the British Raj, he was in London and Huzoor's prayers were fulfilled as follows:

Khalifatul-Masih II was compelled by the Partition to move to Lahore and he wrote to Amir UK Ch. Mushtaq Bajwah at that time

Amir in London, that because of the extreme circumstances he could not send the monthly expenses, so the Waqifeen are released from there bondage to Jamā'at and free to leave. With permission of the Amir, Ch. Ashraf would take the Muballigh Ch. Zahoor Bajwa with him to local Flea Market selling perfumes, and then shared the profits equally with the Jamā'at, resulting in adequate support for the finances. A few months later Huzoor started sending the financial support again, as before.

It is the grace of Allah Almighty that there is now a large number of his grandchildren and great grandchildren, many of whom went on to become professionals, and by and large they maintain their affiliation with Khilafat Ahmadiyya. At the present age his great grandchildren have been working with the Jamā'at including as Ansar Sadr in Britain and two of them in USA Jama'at as Presidents.

Descendants of all earlier Ahmadis are following the good examples of their ancestors all over the world. We all pray for the success of them, in their varied endeavors.

Life is a river of Chaos, Allah alone can and does create guidance for all of His humanity. The prayer of Prophet Sulaiman (27[An-Naml]: 20) is apt for all of us:

رَبِّ اَوْزِعْنِیْۤ اَنْ اَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِیْۤ اَنْعَمْتَ عَلَیَّ وَ عَلٰى وَالِدَیَّ وَ اَنْ اَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضٰىهُ وَ اَدْخِلْنِیْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِیْ عِبَادِكَ الصّٰلِحِیْنَ

Ameen.

# An Interesting Challenge to Christians

**From "Lata'if-i-Sadiq" by Shaikh Ismael Panipati. Translated by Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi**

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq was stationed in Chicago, Il. In February 1921, a person from Detroit invited him to come to Detroit, Michigan for few days so that the arrangement could be made for his lectures on Islam.

Detroit is famous in America for automobile industry. The largest among them is the automotive industry of Henry Ford which employs 50,000 workers. The area of the city is 80 square miles with the population of one million. The city comprises a university, 6 colleges, 200 high schools, 300 churches, 4 railway stations, 40 public gardens, 11 hospitals, 57 fire extinguish stations, 15 libraries, 10 police stations, 5 big markets, 8 daily newspapers and 3,000 other industrial units.

Dr. Mufti Sadiq accepted the invitation and reached Detroit on 5 February 1921. He delivered his first lecture on 7 February in a big and beautiful public hall. It was filled to the capacity with people of both sexes. He described the beautiful character and open mindedness of Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). Then he said, "Once a delegate of Christians of Najran came to the city of Madina to meet the Holy Prophet Muhammad. He allowed them boarding and lodging in a mosque. They were taken care of properly. They were given permission to pray in the same mosque for Sunday service. I am an ordinary disciple of him and have come in this country to spread the teaching of Islam. I challenge all Christian missionaries to allow me to pray in any of their church on any Friday according to my religious norm if they have a bit of courage and generosity. I need to compare whether you have the same temperament and courage as that of the Prophet Muhammad."

The challenge of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq was well publicized the next day in the Detroit Press by the journalists present in the lecture hall. One newspaper sent a delegate to notable Christian missionaries of the city asking them to answer the challenge thrown by Dr. Mufti.

All missionaries of the city categorically refused to permit any Muslim to offer Prayer in their churches. Some Christian missionaries published in some newspapers that Islam is a big enemy of the Christianity, and they cannot be permitted to pray in any church in any circumstances.

In response to the news published, Dr. Mufti also wrote in a newspaper that he was not against Christians and Christianity rather he was their well-wisher and sympathizer. He believed Jesus Christ as a true Prophet of God and respected him more than the Christians did. Christians consider him accursed but he believed that he was a holy and a blessed person. Christian clergies preached love and harmony in accordance with the teaching of the Bible but they themselves failed to act on it. He wanted them to say alike and was successful in his endeavor. They shouldn't worry as he absolutely did not need their churches to offer his Prayer. Their churches were designed such that it was very cumbersome to offer Muslim Prayer in them.

The Christian priests were seen hiding their faces. (Ref: Lata'if-i-Sadiq by Shaikh Muhammad Isma'il Panipati. P. 104, Ahmad Academy Rabwah, printed by Lahore Art Press 15 Anarkali, Lahore)

# A uniting ring, “Is Allah not sufficient for his servant?”

**Adila Yacoob, Medical Student, Trinidad & Tobago**

In June 1876, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad’s father fell very ill. Naturally, the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) thought about the sad demise of his father and the hard days that would soon be approaching; days of poverty ahead and unstable financial support flashed before him.

Before the demise of his father, there were two revelations about his father’s departure from the world. The second revelation from Allah the Almighty declared:

اَلَيْسَ اللّٰهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدَه

“Is Allah not Sufficient for His Servant?” (39[Az-Zumar]: 37)

Indeed, Allah is sufficient for his servant. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad felt a sense of relief after this revelation and the contentment that Allah the Almighty would take care of him and his needs. And Allah indeed did because throughout the rest of his life, Allah blessed him in abundance and granted him all what he required.

The Promised Messiah’s father passed away the same evening. Later, engraved this revelation onto a ring.

Today, throughout the world, thousands of Ahmadis have rings with this inscription which reminds them of trusting Allah. This has also become a sort of identity and ethos for Ahmadis. Throughout the world, this reminder on the ring can somewhat unite all Ahmadis together in following the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him).

The rings are made in various shapes, colors and sizes. People use this ring when tying the knot, while others receive it as presents. During meetings with Huzoor, many Ahmadis request to touch their rings with the ring of the Promised Messiah. Khalifat-ul-Masih always fulfills desire of the Ahmadis. It becomes a source of blessing.

# In the Footsteps of My Father and Grandfather

**Amatul Basit Khalid MD**

Women have historically served shoulder-to-shoulder with men in Islam, whether serving in the battlefield, offering water to the injured soldiers, or fighting in combat on the frontline. Khaulah bint al-Azwar did not think twice before riding her horse and fighting in the battlefield.

## Fazl-e-‘Umar Hospital, Rabwah, Pakistan, 1987

In September 1987, my husband shared a posting in Al-Fazl, our daily newspaper in Rabwah, Pakistan. “There is a dire need of a female doctor in Fazl-e-‘Umar Hospital Rabwah.” I got alarmed by the advertisement and thought to myself that it cannot be for me. Afterall, I was just starting my comfortable life and which I deserved after so many years of hard work and student life. I had two beautiful daughters that deserved all the good things in life, and love and attention of their parents. With anxiety and tears in my eyes, I thought about my letters to Huzoor before every examination, “Huzoor, please pray that I pass this examination so that I can serve Ahmadiyya Muslim Community after becoming a doctor.”

Suddenly, with renewed energy, I informed my husband of my decision to serve at Fazl-e-‘Umar Hospital. I was not alone in my decision; both my mother-in-law volunteered to support me while I worked the night shifts in the labor ward. My next two years were spent in the outpatient ward serving women from all over Rabwah and the surrounding villages. I spent many nights in the labor ward managing critical patients. My husband would travel broken and dusty roads six hours one way every other weekend to visit us in Rabwah from Multan.

After two years, we migrated to USA where my third child, a son was born. I believe that Allah must have been pleased with my sacrifices; hence, my success in the board exam

and acceptance into the Internal Medicine residency program. It was no easy task to pass my boards with three young children. However, life did not become any easier. In fact, the real challenges were in front of us.

Raising three children with a full-time job was extremely difficult. In addition, following in my parents and grandparents' footsteps, I remained active in the Jamā'at in some capacity, as the Local Lajna President, Regional Lajna President and in different National Offices. Twenty-five years passed by in a blink of an eye and I realized that more than half of my life is over.

## My experience at the first Medical Health Camp, Guatemala, 2013

In 2013, I was blessed with the opportunity to join the Gift of Health Medical Camp, in Guatemala. I had never been to Guatemala and had many concerns regarding the overall safety and the fear of infectious parasites and skin diseases. The entire team took precautions using gloves, washing hands, drinking bottled water, and avoiding uncooked foods, etc. Meeting underserved people of Guatemala on my first day at the Camp was an eye-opener. Tears flew uncontrolled down my cheeks, and I could not stop thanking Allah for all the blessings we had in USA. I realized that even though providing medical care to my patients in the US is service to humanity, it lacked the high feeling of satisfaction I experienced in the remote areas in Guatemala where the patients had serious, chronic illnesses with few treatment options, malnourishment, and lack of continuity of care.

Our services at the camp lacked simple diagnostic tests such as basic blood tests or chest X-rays. I wondered what illnesses were hiding in those lungs and how many diagnoses were we missing?

Would our humble efforts make a difference in their lives? And then I remembered our basic teaching as Ahmadi doctors, and my grandfather's (Hafiz Dr. Badr ud-Din-Ahmad) notes in his diary, that the cure is in the inner desire of helping someone. The sophisticated tests and modern medications, the bureaucracy of the insurance companies, never-ending demands of the dissatisfied patients and their families, cannot buy cure and healing. The cure is only a blessing of Allah, that He can bestow upon his people the form of a placebo, or just a simple, over-the-counter pain medicine. I prayed as I wrote the same medicine for different diagnosis and hoped that Allah would heal them. In just one week, we were able to touch the lives of 2,000-3,000 patients. I believe that a simple smile, or a careful listening ear can also serve as a cure.

## Serving as the Executive Medical Director, Nasir Hospital, Guatemala, 2018

These medical camps became so frequent and successful that it resulted in a dream to build a hospital. With the blessings of Allah, the building of Nasir hospital to serve the people of Guatemala became a reality in October 2018. The intention was to provide continuous, affordable medical care to those in need. When I was selected as one of the faculties of Nasir Hospital, my heart was filled with gratitude to Allah Almighty, and my eyes were filled with tears.

Different department directors were invited to come to Guatemala in August 2018 to plan of Huzoor's visit and inauguration of the hospital. I can never forget the intensity of the emotions and gratitude that everyone expressed for this opportunity to serve. It was amazing to hear the background of all of those involved; that their forefathers had served Jamā'at in some capacity and that all of them expressed that they were enjoying the blessings from the sacrifices of their forefathers. And then I remember on the day of the inauguration, we were able to meet Huzoor in our assigned roles.

Consequently, by the Grace of Allah, I was blessed with the responsibility of becoming the Executive Medical Director of the hospital.

Here I was, once again, facing a difficult decision of attending to my six extended care facilities back in PA, USA as the Medical Director, managing my medical practice, taking care of my 87-year-old mother-in-law, my children and grandchildren who needed my support or taking on the responsibility as the Medical Director of Nasir Hospital in Guatemala. This decision was even more difficult than taking my two young daughters to serve in Fazl-e-'Umar Hospital, Rabwah. The words of bai'at directed me once again and made my decision an easy one. I discussed my decision with my husband, which he fully supported. From this point on, instead of visiting Nasir hospital twice a year for a week, I was expected to pay monthly visits to the hospital for at least 7-10 days at a time.

## Additional Administrative responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer, Nasir Hospital

As the medical director, I ensured quality of care, established policies and procedures of the hospital and trained the medical staff on standard of care. After a year, Almighty Allah chose this humble servant to serve the Hospital as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) which was a highly intense and challenging responsibility. As the CEO, I was also responsible to oversee and organize the Gift of Health Camp and the Gift of Sight Camp. Initially, I was nervous, could not sleep, thinking about the seriousness of the responsibility. But then, the last two verses of Sura Al-Baqarah would come to mind, "Allah does not burden any soul with a responsibility beyond its capacity,"

offered me great reassurance. With the blessings of Allah, prayers of Huzoor, support of my husband and family and the guidance of the HF Healthcare Board, I was able to understand the financial and administrative aspects of the hospital.

## Challenges due to COVID-19 Pandemic, March 2020

On 16 March 2020, the Gift of Health Camp, was impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic. As Guatemala airport began to cancel all flights, we were able to arrange for flights back home for all 15 students, one day before their camp ended. I stayed behind with my husband as there were major unfinished business at the hospital and the unpredictability was adding to a great deal of anxiety for everyone. My mother-in-law at home, needed continued medical care, and my grandchildren were without a babysitter due to COVID-19 and my patients back home needed my medical attention.

Once again, I was torn between the hospital and my family. Responsibility of Nasir Hospital as a CEO was on my humble shoulders, and I chose service over family and my patients at home.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, I was able to manage and decided to stay in Guatemala to resolve the hospital's affairs.

That same week, we confirmed a COVID-19 positive patient. As the hospital did not have a designated room for COVID-19, 5-6 hospital staff were directly exposed to the patient. Fear of COVID-19 took over and the next morning, all medical staff including doctors and nurses refused to enter the hospital to work. The department of Health did an inspection and the entire hospital was sanitized, and the out-patient service was shut down. When the staff noticed that I was back at the hospital, they began returning to work. Some even suggested that the hospital be shut down. I called an emergency meeting to address questions and concerns of the employees. Staff members were educated and informed regarding the proper use of PPE. Protocols were established for screening of patients and protection of the hospital employees, and the hospital stayed open for service. I purchased several hundred yards of waterproof material and with my neighbor's help, we designed protective full body suits, caps, booties and gowns to be used during an emergency.

Another hurdle faced by several employees was that the public transportation was halted by the government and many employees could not come to work. The Government of Guatemala enforced employers to arrange for transportation of their employees. All non-essential businesses were shut down and a curfew was enforced from 4 PM to 4 AM. Private vehicles with even-numbered plates were allowed to be on the road one day, and odd-numbered plates were allowed to be on the road on alternate days. Nasir Hospital had to obtain a special driving permit for all the employees and non-medical staff were advised to work every other day. As our hospital did not have a designated vehicle to transport employees, my husband offered our personal vehicle for transportation of employees.

## Challenges faced traveling back and forth from USA to Guatemala during COVID-19 Pandemic

After one month, the USA Embassy informed us that they had arranged a charter plane to take the US citizens back home. Since many acute issues had been resolved at Nasir Hospital, I decided to return home with my husband. Upon returning home, I became anxious about not being in Guatemala to manage the hospital affairs. While daily Zoom meetings were held and weekly meetings with HF Healthcare board members to address acute situations, it was not the same as being there in person. I recognized that it was imperative for me to obtain permission to return to Guatemala. I wrote to the Guatemala embassy as well as a request to the President of Guatemala via the embassy requesting permission for entry into Guatemala. After several weeks of back and forth, permission was granted by the President of Guatemala to re-enter the country; however, I had to go by road through the Mexico borders.

My entire family including my siblings, were opposed to my traveling to Guatemala as no vaccination for COVID-19 was available yet and I was at risk for acquiring COVID-19 infection. However, "I shall give precedence to my faith over all worldly desires" guided me and I stayed firm in my plans. The travel this time, involved changing 3 planes, crossing Mexico border and road travel for 6-8 hours to reach our residence in Guatemala. After entry into the country, I had to be quarantined. Therefore, I had two drivers; one from the mosque and the other from the hospital, who drove my personal car and hospital truck to pick me up from the border in order to avoid exposure to the drivers. Accompanied by my husband, we drove our own vehicle, while the drivers rode back on the truck.

It was extremely challenging trying to cross the border of Mexico and enter into Guatemala. Despite the letter from the President of Guatemala, the Mexican immigration stopped us from entering into Guatemala, as they did not believe that the letter was actually from the President of Guatemala. The officer stated that it could be a fake letter, and they needed to communicate with authorities in the immigration center on the Guatemala side. We contacted the Guatemala Embassy in the USA to confirm that the letter was authentic. I am grateful to Allah Almighty that in spite of the

language barrier, extreme heat, crowded planes, carrying our luggage over the borders after waiting countless hours in the sun for verification processes, and fearing COVID infection throughout this process, my husband and I did not shirk our responsibilities.

Throughout these trials of travel, I reminded myself of the challenges my beloved father, Sheikh Naseer-Ud-Din Ahmad, had faced. My dear father had dedicated his life, he walked for miles in the sun to go to the immigration office in Zambia to follow up on his application for a work permit. He was blessed with the ability to start a new mission house in Zambia in the late seventies. He faced several obstacles in obtaining a work permit and to follow-up on his application, he would walk for many miles, he did not have a car, therefore he would walk, he only had a bicycle. He was involved in an accident while on his bicycle, the bicycle broke along with sustaining a fractured toe. I counted my blessings to have access to a car. I thanked Allah Almighty on each step that he had blessed me with the ability to stay in a nice and clean hotel and drive home in our own car, therefore it seemed a minute sacrifice in comparison to my father's.

## Progress at the Hospital in spite of COVID-19

Meanwhile, I still had my practice in Pennsylvania. The physician who was to take over my practice changed her mind at the last minute. Even though I had informed my patients about the covering physicians, my patients refused to see another provider. With Allah's Help, I was able to follow-up with my patients via telehealth and manage any acute emergencies while in Guatemala.

Once back at Nasir hospital, the medical staff went above and beyond to establish safe protocols to resume outpatient services. To prevent cross contamination, a designated staff was hired for COVID-19 patients. These interventions improved our finances tremendously by the Grace of Allah.

An increased influx of patients, increased number of surgeries due to new affordable adjusted prices and treatment of COVID patients, resulted in a rapid rise in revenue. From June to October 2020, our revenues increased significantly, Al-Hamdu Lillah! Even in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were able to manage our finances almost at pre-COVID budget.

During this trip, I stayed in Guatemala for more than two months. While I needed to return to Pennsylvania, I did not want to leave Guatemala unless I had some sort of reassurance that I would be able to re-enter within 7-10 days. Fortunately, a retired Army General who was familiar with Nasir Hospital reassured me that I would not face any obstacles returning to Guatemala, even though, he did not provide this assurance in writing. Hiring a costly Charter plane, we traveled back to Pennsylvania. All costs, as always, were covered by me personally.

Upon returning to PA, I continued requesting for a written letter for re-entry into Guatemala; however, the authorities kept on postponing. Thinking about the assurance from the Army General, we flew back after being in PA for 10 days. This time, it was a longer route through Mexico, and involved stays in hotels. Daily flights were not available and if you missed your flight, you were out of luck for a few days. We ended up spending extra days in the hotels. Eventually we reached Tapaculo Mexico border, and we requested the retired Army General for a written confirmation for our re-entry into Guatemala. Unfortunately, his efforts were not successful.

## Delays due to travel restrictions

There was only one hotel, Holiday Inn, at the border where my husband and I stayed. Every morning we anxiously waited for the permission letter without any hope. We decided to go to the Guatemala Embassy in Mexico, however, no one could help us without a written permission letter from a higher authority. After three days, a new member of the Guatemala Jamā'at advised us that he knew someone in the immigration office who might allow us to enter the country. He assured us that it would be done legally, and we went to the border and were able to cross the border. While crossing the bridge, we noticed numerous people crossing the border illegally through the river just under the bridge, and while the authorities watched them, no one stopped them.

Mexican immigration stamped our passport. But as we came to the Guatemala side, we were informed that the immigration officer, who had promised our entry, had gone away for 3 days. The officer who replaced him asked us for money. He simply stated, "If you want me to stamp your passports, you will have to either pay me or bring the permission letter." We were in an awkward position as we had already crossed the Mexico border and yet, were not allowed to move forward and drive to our residence in Guatemala. We were standing in the middle of the two countries. We did not want to pay a bribe, we were standing with our luggage, our car was waiting right across from us, but we were unable to enter. Ultimately, our prayers were accepted, the immigration officer allowed us to enter the country on a condition that he would stamp our passport only after we showed him our letter of permission to enter. We finally arrived at our home in Guatemala late at night, but with a feeling of unease. After two days, the ministry of immigration approved our entry in the country, and we received the letter to enter the country within 24

hours. Subsequently, as requested by the immigration officer at the border, we had to travel back to the border for 6-8 hours with the letter of permission and get our passports stamped for legal entry!

## Diagnosed with COVID-19

The consequences of the stress of these travels, led to extreme exhaustion. I began to experience severe back pain and body ache which was unusual for me. The next day, I had meetings in the hospital. After attending the meetings, I was not able to sit and had to go home to rest. I was not able to carry on any chores around the house and stayed in bed for the rest of the day. I was not able to eat much either. I attempted to return to work; however, I had to return home to rest. In addition to being extremely tired, I was experiencing right flank pain which I self-diagnosed as a urinary tract infection and treated myself with Cipro. My symptoms did not improve, and fatigue worsened with accompanying fever and chills. I went to the hospital next morning and had blood work done and returned home to take care of important work while in bed. Lab results returned in a few hours, and I was shocked to see the degree of abnormality in my labs as previously they were always normal. This indicated COVID positivity test. I was able to consult with Dr. Mir Sharif virtually who, after reviewing my labs, started me on a complete COVID treatment protocol.

Being diagnosed with COVID is scary and especially while away in a different country, away from home and family was not easy. I had witnessed COVID patients as young as 21 and 47-year-old succumbing to COVID right in front of my eyes. Additionally, Guatemala does not have the optimal and sophisticated medical equipment in case of a life-threatening state like ECMO (extra corporal membrane oxygenation).

I was thankful to Allah that my husband did not experience many symptoms even though he was right next to me throughout my diagnosis whereas, I was so sick that I could not even raise my arms.

At this point, I decided to inform my 7 siblings and my children, about my diagnosis. It caused great panic, as I was the first one to be infected with COVID in the family. My entire family had attempted to discourage me from traveling for the past three months; however, I had made a commitment and I was responsible for the hospital and nothing was going to stop me, not even COVID! Everyone was extremely worried. I said to Allah, if it is my time and I am going to die while away from my loved ones, it will be for the sake of the most Loving and Gracious God. “Say that my prayers, my sacrifice, my life and death are all for Allah, who is Lord of all the worlds.” (5 [Al-Ma’idah]:163).

While Dr. Mir Sharif kept a close “virtual” eye on me, our Medical Director at Nasir Hospital continuously monitored my progress and my husband learned how to administer intravenous therapy at home. While receiving intravenous therapy, I attended all the meetings virtually with the hospital board without informing them that I was ill. It took me 3-4 weeks to recover and return to work. My husband had to leave for the US to take care of his mother, while I stayed in Guatemala and continued working for 2-3 weeks. I was still experiencing extreme fatigue and shortness of breath. Finally, the airport re-opened in Guatemala and I was able to return home for one week. I recall walking out of the plane and walking to the immigration with only a small personal bag and yet, it required a monumental effort as I was experiencing shortness of breath, palpitations, and chest pains.

Even though I recovered from COVID, my weakness and “mental fog” did not clear for another five months. My personal experience with COVID-19 enabled me to empathize with other patient’s experience with COVID. While in PA, I have been making rounds in the nursing home where more than 60% of residents were sick with COVID. I realize their pain as they were elderly, frail people.

Back in Guatemala, teamwork in improving the quality of care resulted in successful operations of the hospital. Our agile strategic and tactical planning, fiscally responsible decisions to control cost and curtail expenses and personal financial sacrifices, resulted in significant increases in revenue. During each trip to Guatemala, my husband and I transported vital medical equipment and medical supplies (at personal expense) for the hospital. I will always be grateful for the commitment and dedication of the medical staff, my husband’s unwavering support and assistance, continuous prayers and sincere efforts, all of which has resulted in significant improvements of not only medical care but also significant discounts on treatments to help the community. My assignment at Nasir Hospital was completed on 12/15/2020; however, by the Grace of Allah, I was able to serve until 3/31/2021.

## A Continued Passion to Serve

I share my story of 27 months of service at Nasir Hospital, Guatemala. However, when I reflect on these 27 months, it could be considered insignificant compared to my father’s sacrifice as a missionary for his entire life. I wish I could have done more, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted several future plans. Nonetheless my intense desire to serve humanity has not changed nor has it been quenched. I am confident that with Allah’s Help and Guidance, I will continue to serve His people in whatever capacity He chooses for this humble servant. In-Sha’-Allah.

# Remembering Dr. Tahira Nasreen Arshed
# A Model Ahmadi Woman

**Rashid Arshed**

"I pray that when I meet my Lord, I am given a place in the household of Hazrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her), where I would serve her as a maid and broom her floors."

My wife Tahira Nasreen was in tears when she came to me after reading the heart-wrenching account of the hardships faced by the Holy Prophet and his kinsmen during their boycott by the Meccans. The lack of provisions, starvation and the harshness of the elements in the wilderness of Shi'b Abi Talib, where they were ostracized for three long years, eventually took its toll on Hazrat Khadija's health and she died soon after the boycott ended.

Tahira Nasreen met her Lord on 18 June 2019, and as her husband, having witnessed her righteous and virtuous life for 25 years, I believe that Allah the Most Gracious will answer her supplications and grant her the exalted status of being close to the household of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him)

Born to devout Ahmadi parents Majida Begum and Nisar Ahmad Farooqi in Peshawar, Tahira Nasreen was an outstanding student and received gold medals in BSc. and MSc. exams from Peshawar University. On learning about her exceptional academic achievements, Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd, expressed his delight and—citing her success as an example—exhorted the male Ahmadi students to excel in their studies.

Tahira Nasreen's scholastic excellence earned her a doctoral scholarship to study at Liverpool University in England, where she was awarded her PhD in quantum physics in 1965. She returned to Pakistan and accepted a teaching position at Peshawar University.

In the summer of 1968, she received another scholarship offer from UNESCO to do research at CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research), in Geneva. Dr. Tahira Nasreen also had the opportunity to spend time in Trieste, Italy, where she taught the Qur'ān to Umar and Saeeda, the children of Prof. Abdus Salam.

Tahira Nasreen also taught in Saudi Arabia and Sudan for a number of years before migrating to the United States, where she had a long and successful teaching career at the University of Tennessee. During this time, she also served as Lajna President of the Tennessee Alabama Chapter. She retired in 2005 after earning the honor of Professor Emeritus and receiving a letter of commendation from the Chancellor. In 2000, while still at the University of Tennessee, she was invited to deliver a lecture at Hirosaki University in Japan. The following year she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship by the US State Department, and served at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. I had the privilege of accompanying her on both trips.

In 2005, while Tahira Nasreen was contemplating retirement from the University of Tennessee, The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi offered her the position of Head of the Fine Art Department. At the same time, Tahira Nasreen was selected as a Foreign Professor by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. In all, we spent three productive and exhilarating years in Pakistan, giving back to the motherland. Long after we returned to the USA, my wife continued to receive emails from her students seeking her guidance.

During our blissful marriage, she had dedicated her life caring for me. She found joy in my joy and would always forego her needs to make sure I was comfortable. Looking after the well-being of her husband was not only part of her faith, but also embedded in her nature, for which she expected nothing in return. She was also a great inspiration and a role model for me in spiritual matters and in my professional career. We had a very cordial and loving relationship, but if we differed on an issue, it was always she who apologized first, even though it was I who overstepped.

We were both blessed for having lived during the Khilafat of Hazrat Muslih Mau'ūd, Khalifat-ul-Masih II, and benefited from his leadership and guidance based on piety, discipline and austerity. Tahira Nasreen was a paragon of these qualities that she embodied throughout her life. And even though she was a worthy recipient of high academic distinctions and worldly honors, she was always remained a very humble and modest person. She was very generous when it came to helping the needy. She offered long-term financial assistance to many needy students and those less fortunate.

Tahira Nasreen was never fond of a life of luxury, and rarely wore jewelry and other ornamentation. On Eid, or on other special occasions, the only jewelry she wore was a simple necklace. She never demanded anything of me, and if I insisted, she would always say she had everything she needed or wanted. When I did give her a gift on Eid, or on some other happy

occasion, she was visibly overjoyed—not because of the material value of the gift but because of the underlying affection shown in the gifting.

Tahira Nasreen was extremely talented at needlepoint and related arts. She designed and sewed her own clothes and often mended and altered her attire rather than rushing out to buy new and expensive fashions. She had a keen sense of humor and a refined taste that allowed her to appreciate the finer things in life. She also dabbled in painting occasionally, and her efforts always left me in awe. She had excellent command English and Urdu, and she possessed a deep and passionate love for poetry and prose. She critically reviewed and edited my five previous books, three in Urdu and two in English.

Tahira Nasreen was always very punctual. And if we were scheduled to attend a Jamā'at meeting, or visit someone, or start on a journey, she was always ready many minutes before I was. I do not recall any occasion when we were ever late to any event, be it a local meeting or a large Jamā'at function we had to travel a few hundreds of miles to attend.

In 2016, Tahira suffered an ischemic stroke, cutting off the main artery that connects to the memory cells in the brain. Although she never fully recovered, she could still communicate well and was able to drive and resume the normal day-to-day functions of life. She accepted this emotional setback with great courage and patience, saying she didn't mind the loss of memory because she was no longer a professor anymore. She did feel a loss, however, when she couldn't remember a particular prayer. At her request, I printed Ya Razzaq, Ya Rahman, Ya Wahhab, the prayer prescribed by the Promised Messiah, as and taped it to the dashboard of the car. She also found much solace in reading Jamā'at literature.

Tahira had always wanted to live near a mosque. In 2009, after we returned from Pakistan, we were fortunate to find a house only a short drive from the Bait-ul-Hameed Masjid in Los Angeles. During the last days of her illness, when I drove her to the mosque, I hoped she would have the company of ladies in the masjid for social interaction. When I didn't see any cars in the ladies parking area, I would assure her that someone would be coming soon. But she would always respond, "It is better if I am alone, because I can concentrate on Prayer better."

After the stroke, she didn't fully remember the prayers for entering and exiting the mosque, but when I began to recite each prayer, instead of saying silently, she was able to recall them quickly. We made a habit from then on to recite the prayers together. We also recited the last four Surahs of the Holy Qur'ān, and Darood Shareef (Salat 'Alan-Nabiyy) jointly before going to bed. We continued this practice until the evening before she slipped into a coma, and four days later when met her Lord. "And thou, O soul at peace! Return to thy Lord well pleased with Him and He well pleased with thee. So, enter thou among My chosen servants, and enter thou, My Garden. (28 [Al-Fajr]:31)

# Springtime Gathering of Friends

**C. Naseer Ahmad, Oakton, Virginia**

It is springtime in Washington, the flowers are blooming, and things are moving in the right direction as more people get vaccinated.

Vaccines have begun to reduce the spread of coronavirus and the CDC (Center for Disease Control) has released new guidelines suggesting that vaccinated people can get together in small numbers. Taking advantage of this situation, I have been visiting my friend Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh, who served as Ex-President of the Washington Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Community. We have been friends for a very long time and most recently we served together as co-Chairman of the Ahmadiyya Human Rights Committee.

We meet in the mornings, when the air is fresh. We sit outside to have a cup of tea together. Besides following CDC guidelines and the health benefits, it is not only pleasant but also a pleasure to appreciate the beautiful roses in Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh's front yard.

The other day, as I was about to leave his house, I mentioned to Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh that I was planning to have lunch with Dr. Riaz Haider in Washington.

"You might recall that he was a friend of Hazrat Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad," I said.

"Yes, I remember, please give Dr. Riaz Haider my salām."

A little while later, when I met Dr. Riaz Haider, during our lunch together, I conveyed the message. "Yes, the tall man, who was one of your community leaders in Washington… I saw him several times at Mian Muzaffar Ahmad's house. Please convey my salām to our revered friend also when you meet him," my friend responded.

Dr. Riaz Haider is an eminent cardiologist, now retired, author of "A Triumphant Voyage: Great Achievements in Cardiology" and a professor of medicine at the George Washington University. He has had a long friendship with M. M. Ahmad. In fact, when M. M. Ahmad died, Dr. Riaz Haider wrote an obituary for

the Washington Post, which he shared with me when I was at Mian Muzaffar Ahmad's house along with other mourners.

Additionally, Dr. Riaz Haider wistfully shared with that one-time M. M. Ahmad brought Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (Khalifat-ul-Masih IV) to his (Dr. Riaz Haider's) house for tea when Huzoor was in USA during one of his visits. In fact, Dr. Riaz Haider's association with key Ahmadiyya Community leaders goes a long way. Late Hazrat Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan performed the nikah ceremony of Dr. Riaz Haider in London. While he was President UN General Assembly, Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan visited Dr. Riaz Haider in the Baltimore-Washington area.

"I had reserved a hotel room for him," recalls Dr. Riaz Haider and then said: "He was such a humble man that he chose to stay with me at my small apartment and slept on the sofa bed."

Gatherings with Dr. Riaz Haider are always special. He has been a wonderful friend for such a long time. We often talk about the people we love and who have left lasting memories. Almost always, some names come up in our conversations: M. M. Ahmad, Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan, Moeen Qureshi (former Vice-President of World Bank) and Air Marshal Rahim Khan (late). These are people whom both of us knew quite well. At 86, he is amazingly healthy; plays tennis several times a week, lifts weights and has sharp memory. After our lunch together, he was headed off to play doubles tennis.

The next week, when I went for my morning tea in Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh's rose garden, "I conveyed your message to Dr. Riaz Haider and he remembers you well," I said.

As with Dr. Riaz Haider, Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh and I also talk about our common friends from days gone by and the people we met years ago.

So, after a few sips of tea, Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh started talking about two incidents related to Hazrat Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan.

"Once when Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan was arriving at Washington Dulles Airport, I also was there with Mian (M. M. Ahmad)," recalled Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh. "Respecting Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan, Mian Muzaffar Ahmad held him by one hand and started walking. Chaudhry Zafrulla was quite old then. So, I thought it might be a good idea to hold his other hand to give him additional support," Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh added. "For a few moments, Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan walked along with us. Then he suddenly pulled his arm from me and said, "I do not need this much support" and starting walking. Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh further reminisced about the dignity and self-reliance of Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan.

Another remarkable incident is about Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan's punctuality and the respect for time. Mian Muzaffar Ahmad had assigned Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh to bring Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan to the World Bank, where he was the chief guest for a lunch in the executive dining room. Mian Muzaffar Ahmad had invited some high-ranking officials and important people for this lunch. "So, I brough him there, as instructed," remembered Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh. "It was an amazing function, and all these important people were engaged in serious conversation. I was seated near Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan and I saw him take a look at his watch and then suddenly got up and said, "I think we have been together for one hour. I am very thankful for you spending this time with me. I am sure you all have important things to do, and I also have some things to do." After making these short remarks and thanking his host and guests, Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan left.

Perhaps, this might be a good opportunity to mention an important assignment Mian Muzaffar Ahmad gave to both of us when we were co-chair Ahmadiyya Human Rights Committee. This was perhaps in the mid-1990s when Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad who was not Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at that time but an important Ahmadiyya leader in Pakistan and was arrested on false charges by Pakistani Government. Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh and I would go to the US Department of State almost daily to help get Huzoor released. We would get an update from the Pakistan Desk Officer of his efforts. One day, he was smiling and said, "I am pleased to inform you that Mirza Masroor Ahmad is being released." We were the first few people who learned about this good news, which we communicated to Mian Muzaffar Ahmad promptly and Mian Muzaffar Ahmad was smiling also.

Over time, friendships get stronger, and many memories are attached. Often, we talk about memories about our loved ones. Like about our children and parents. So, in our most recent tea session, Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh talked about his father who was known as Mian Ibrahim. Every year around Jalsa time, his father would lovingly prepare a gift for Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II. His father used to beautifully wrap and send along to the Private Secretary with a letter requesting prayers from Khalifatul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him).

Inside the beautiful package was desi Gur (lumps of unrefined sugar). We used to tease our father, "Do you really believe that Huzur even sees this gift?"

"It so happened that one year, my father fell ill and so that year no gift was sent to Huzur," Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh stated. "The Mulāqāt with Huzur for the Faisalabad Jamā'at used to be on Mondays. So, I was there with my village members.

When my turn came to meet Huzur, the Amir of Faisalabad introduced me and informed Huzur about the illness of my father. Immediately upon seeing me, Huzur said, "No wonder we did not receive "Gur" this year. You know, every year we anticipate receiving this delicious gift because we enjoy it after lunch and dinner," Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh reminisced as his eyes lightened up.

So, this was the sweet ending to our tea session on a bright spring day when red roses were blooming in his garden. Until we meet again, may your days be just as sweet.

# Fatherhood in Islam—A letter to my father

**Miyan Zāhir Muhammad Mannan**

You are a Divine gift no less than the first reflection of Allah's Glorious, Majestic names. You showed me how to uphold the consecrated trust of fatherhood. I appreciate you not just once a year on Father's Day but daily through lasting acts of prayers, service, obedience, and love. Whenever I gaze upon your handsome bearded countenance or am blessed to delve into deep existential discussions with you about the Prophets, Angels, Khulafa or electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, aliens, even the Divine Source of everything when you're not already relishing in teaching, laughing, and making memories with your grandchildren, I'm always reminded of God Almighty and His chosen Vicegerents.

From our holy fathers Adam to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Krishna, King David, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus Christ, Muhammad the Seal of all Prophets, and Messiah Ahmad, peace be on them all, Allah's paternal colors were mirrored and manifested in you first for me.

Your pleasure is dearer to me than my own as I stand witness to the truth an Hadith "God's pleasure is found in the happiness of your father while God's anger is in the displeasure of your father" (Tirmidhi).

You lovingly inspire me to seek and choose the Manifest, Praiseworthy, Bounteous God above all else and to spread His glad tidings and warnings with wisdom not for any reward but only for His pleasure and to share His Kingdom. Your enchantment by Almighty Allah and His light in Hazrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him), the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, and their living Khalifa is palpable and contagious.

You somehow gathered all five of us hyperactive sons for what matters most; congregational Salat. You effectively made us all pause in the presence of Almighty Allah and fall in love with His freeing worship by patiently taking our hands and modeling Wudu ablution with us as if it was light not water, as well as the sacred postures and melodious recitations of Salat which you said aloud both in Arabic and English to ensure its transforming value reached our hearts. You lend us your

wings to transcend the limits of this world beyond our physical senses up into the realm of spiritual mysteries and wonders. You instilled in us love and service to Khilafat and helped us write letters to the fatherly Caliph of the time, whether it was Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah shower His mercy on him) or Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah support him with His mighty help), and sacrificed your time and wealth in bringing us to meet and spark a connection with our spiritual father not letting it know any breaking. You always direct our attention towards Khilafat as the "second personification of Divine power" (Al Waṣiyyat) far above yourself as a role model and all other worldly relationships.

You taught us how to hope for God's communion, to write down our dreams and pay special attention to them as forms of open Divine communication when you encouraged us to read the book Tadhkirah. Your moving Quranic recitation still strikes awe in our souls transporting us to the last day and God's Threshold.

Your fatherhood extends to Ahmadi Muslims beyond our blood relations in and around the state of Connecticut who elected you as their first and pioneering President in the late 1980s. You diligently fulfilled this sacred office for over a decade after which you served energetically in various other capacities like Northeast Regional Qa'id and local Jamā'at Tabligh Secretary, the very responsibility I'm humbly entrusted to today. You did the groundwork for our Ahmadiyya Muslim Community under the guidance of the Fourth Caliph and the then Regional Missionary, Inamul Haq Kauser, to become what it is today alongside the succeeding Presidents by God's grace seeing it grow from a handful of families to now 400 members. You always said the true religion of God would grow rapidly in front of our eyes.

It was your mother-in-law's residence that served as our first House of Almighty Allah. Yet you still readily humble yourself before others, especially to your wife who you treat as the most educated Queen, and sons who you respect as princely leaders, though we're just savants and though at times we regrettably take advantage of you.

You always uplift and enrich your grandchildren and magically enlighten their day when we're not able to cheer them up. Thank you for being our friend and that of our children when we felt alone, for covering our faults so we wouldn't feel hopeless.

You established weekend religious classes from our home to strengthen our knowledge and identity highlighting that spare time was for increased remembrance of God or other productive projects not laziness or wasteful pursuits. It was you who initially sparked our thirst for righteousness that will follow us after death, and now I can only pray and hope to pass that awakening torch onto my children as gallantly as you did and continue to do for us.

This is why you remind me of the Caliphs of God about whom the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) unveiled in a hadith "All prophets are paternal brothers having different mothers but one religion." (Bukhari) None, however, represented God the Lord, Nourisher, and Caretaker of all the worlds more immaculately than the universal Prophet, Muhammad, sent as a mercy to all, peace be on him. He was survived by four pious daughters while his sons returned to God in infancy amid the horror of female infanticide as the cultural norm in and around Arabia. Despite his enemies taunting him as *abtar* (issueless), Allah Ta'ala yet assured him from the unseen of "receiving every kind of good in abundance." (108 [Al-Kauthar]:2) History bears witness that he was succeeded by four rightly guided Caliphs, a dozen Spiritual reformers at the turn of each century, Messiah Ahmad (may peace be on him) as the second coming of Jesus Christ (may peace be on him), and five rightly guided Caliphs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community each of whom was and is a father for the fatherless.

Never did the Prophet feel any less a man having only daughters and no surviving sons, nor did his daughters ever feel deficient. Their father's empowering treatment was testified to by his own noble wives for other fathers to emulate. Said Hazrat A'isha (may Allah be pleased with her) "Whenever his daughter Fatimah would enter upon the Prophet he would stand up, kiss her, and would sit her in his seat. Whenever the Prophet entered upon Fatimah she would stand up, kiss him, and sit him in her seat…" (Al-Tirmidhi).

The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) taught and modeled "the best among you is he who is best in conduct to and treatment of his family." This is perhaps why Hazrat Zaid bin Harith (may peace be on him), who was a slave gifted to, freed, and adopted by the Prophet, voluntarily chose to stay and spend the rest of his life with the Prophet even when his biological father finally found him after years of separation and searching. I would do the same. Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was and is still father to the orphaned and less fortunate. He is the chief of all Adam's progeny and their only true Intercessor on Judgement Day. Unlike previous Divine Messengers who were sent only to certain people for a limited time, it was for all of us and all time that the Holy Qur'ān says he was "sent as a Divine mercy, Seal and father of all Prophets, Messenger, a light giving lamp, and as a bearer of glad tidings and a warner" (Holy Qur'ān). The noble "wives of the

Prophet are as mothers" to us believers, but the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) is closer than a biological father could ever be, being our spiritual patriarch and "nearer to the believers than their own selves" (33 [Al-Ahzab]:7). The Holy Quran beautifully illustrates this superior spiritual proximity, "grievous to the Prophet is that you should fall into trouble; he is ardently desirous of your welfare" (9 [At-Taubah]:128). We cannot possibly reciprocate our father's sacrifices for us nor the Prophet's life-giving love for and investment in us as his people closer than biological children, but we are taught what our least response should be; "You are not a true believer until you love me (the Prophet) more than yourself, your spouse, children, parents, family, wealth, job, and all worldly attachments" (Bukhari). Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) is our honor, our happiness, our paradise, our guide, our savior, our resurrector, who unveiled the Hidden Creator and the truthfulness of previous spiritual children of God, who we invoke countless blessings and exaltations here and hereafter upon and pray for more than ourselves, fathers, families and friends, whose illustrious countenance we long to meet, and see even for a moment in our dreams. None championed his perfect obedience and love better than his spiritual son and ardent devotee raised in the 19th century as his subordinate Prophet (4 [An-Nisa']:70, As-Saff 61:7), Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, Punjab, India, the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi. Messiah Ahmad (may peace be on him) spent sleepless nights and tireless days in worship, spiritual exercises, Jihad of the pen, word, and deed to defend the honor and expound upon the verities of his spiritual father and master Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and the Prophet's transforming religion, miraculous Divine revelations, and All-Encompassing Gracious and Merciful King all verbally being attacked from every angle around the world and particularly in India, the very blessed original cradle of our first father Adam (according to Hazrat Hasan Al Basri and the Promised Messiah in Al Istifta of Haqeeqat-ul-Wahy p. 801).

Ahmadi Muslims have another father in Messiah Ahmad as well as his current and fifth Caliph, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who visits us in his prayers every night and answers our hundreds of thousands of personal letters per month exuding our personal and communal dramas, complaints, requests, approvals, and rarely good news with no judgements only prayers, guidance, admonitions, and motivation. Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) declared "(In fact) All of you are shepherds and everyone is responsible for their flock. The father is a shepherd of the people of his house and is responsible for his family. A mother is the shepherd of her house and children and is responsible for them…" (Abu Dawud).

So, as we see tribulations shake our siblings around the world, let's not forget we are all limbs of the same body, together as one we are the child of Adam (may peace be on him) and his wife who were expelled from the garden but forgiven. Restoration comes with gratitude and giving back to our fathers and mothers rather than blaming and feeding off of them. Let's at least reciprocate their selfless sacrifices and heroic feats as we become anointed with and embark upon the sacrosanct adventure of parenthood ourselves.

"'My Lord, grant me that I may be grateful for Thy favor which Thou hast bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and I may do such good works as may please Thee. And establish righteousness among my progeny for me. I do turn to Thee; and, truly, I am of those who submit to Thee." (46 [Al-Ahqaf]:16)

# Islam's answer to unity: Uniting the States of America

**Dr. Summer Rahim Ahmad of Columbia, MO**

"… One nation, under God, with liberty and JUSTICE FOR ALL …"

The pledge of allegiance is recited by millions of students at the beginning of each school day. Many may not give much thought to the beautiful words they recite. Yet in these words is the very essence of creating a peaceful, harmonious, and united society in our country and our world.

Though an historic year in many ways, 2020 in the United States has been tumultuous in several respects. One of the biggest issues is racial injustice. The undertones of racial injustice are deeply rooted in all parts, and nearly all of the difficulties of our society. Like an intertwined thread, racial inequity cannot be separated from the many problems this country faces.

However, injustice of any kind is not something one should become

comfortable with or accept. As beautifully put by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Americans must unite on this front in order to make any kind of progress, as President Lincoln once stated that "a house divided cannot stand."

Islam has the solution to problems America faces. The answer lies in the Holy Qur'ān, which eloquently states, "So weigh all things in justice and fall not short of the measure." (55 [Al-Rahman]:10)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) not only taught Muslims to act with justice, but to further "Choose for your brothers what you choose for yourself."

The answer to America's unrestful state is that governments must act with justice, which means "just behavior of treatment," or "a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect" for all people. Not only must governments treat their citizens with justice, citizens must treat each other with justice and have a genuine concern for each other. Racial injustice thus has been, and continues to be, the very origin of so many of the problems which plagued our magnificent country.

Justice for all is a very basic Islamic teaching. The Qur'ānic verse mentioned above beautifully draws attention to humans that just as God operates the universe and keeps it running harmoniously with each object obeying His laws, so should man, the pinnacle of creation. Humankind must strictly follow the Golden Principle of meting out with justice every action he conducts towards any fellow man. Thus, he is able to discharge his duty to his Creator by treating every single person with compassion and justice, just as he himself would like to be treated, for the sake of God. This is called the Golden Rule.

The worldwide head and the Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, says, "True peace cannot be established, be it in a person's home, in a town, or city, in his nation or at an international level until there is justice. Islam proclaims that all people are born equal no matter where they hail from or the color of their skin. It teaches that no race is superior to another, nor are the people of any particular descent more gifted than others. And that Allah is the Provider for all of mankind." (Address of Khalifat-ul-Masih V at Annual Convention Germany on 26 August 2017)

In regards to the recent peaceful protests, which often resulted in riots, the His Holiness said,

> "To vandalize your own nation's property doesn't harm others, it only harms yourselves and your own nation. If one thinks adopting extremist measures is the way to have decisions made in their favor, they are entirely wrong."

He further goes on to say,

> "Governments should look after their people with love, care and justice. The police should remain within limits of law and seek to solve their problems with peaceful way rather than unconsciously assisting those who wish to harm the nation."

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, whose motto is "Love for All, Hatred for None," also actively promotes the idea that "Innocent Lives Matter" and for the "Supremacy of Justice" for each individual in society. The Caliphs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have consistently echoed Islam's solution to this injustice for decades. Ahmadi Muslims are told to fulfill the rights of ALL mankind. They are told to always act with equality and respect the feelings of others so that peace can be restored. The Holy Qur'ān mentions:

> "... and let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice. Be always just, that is nearer to righteousness." (5 [Al-Ma'idah]:9)

His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad further adds,

"Every Ahmadi should try to establish a pure society, unless the walls of color, race and nationality are made to fall, unless Asian, white and African American consider themselves as human beings equal to each other and do their utmost to discharge the rights of others, we will not be truly fulfilling our pledge. These are the beautiful teachings of Islam. If you want to be successful then follow these rules, establish justice and abandon two-sided politics, only then can you establish peace and facilitate your lives in this world and the next."

In the fight for equality, justice is supreme. Being fair and unifying with one another is the way that human beings can ultimately affect positive changes in society.

We must accept that peace can only be built on the solid foundations of honesty, integrity and justice, which are the keys to peace. Without these elements, no solution will ever prove beneficial.

# JOIN OUR TEAM

National Publication Department is looking for graphic designers with diverse expertise to join our team. We are developing a network of individuals with expertise in multimedia and graphic design. We are looking for individuals interested in extending a helping hand and assistance to the publication department and other departments of the Jama'at in event promotions, website design/development, flyers/posters development, etc.

This network will also give us the ability to help those individuals who are trying to get into this field with letters of recommendation.

*if you are a*

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Email your letter of interest and resume to publications@ahmadiyya.us

# USA Jamāʿat Calendar 2022

| Date/Day/Time | Event | Local/Region/National | Venue |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Jan, Sat | New Year's Day | Federal Holiday | |
| 8-9 Jan-Sat-Sun | Local/Auxiliary Activities, Reviews & Plans | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 9 Jan, Sun 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept (TBD) | Webinar |
| 14-16 Jan, Fr-Sun | Ansar Leadership Conference | Auxiliary /National | Dallas, TX |
| 15-16 Jan, Sat-Sun | MKA Nazimeen Atfāl Refresher Course | Auxiliary /National | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 17 Jan, Mon | Martin Luther King Jr Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 23 Jan, Sat, 6-8 PM | Garments for Each Other | National Rishta Nata Dept | Webinar |
| 5-6 Feb, Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/Aux | Jamāʿat |
| 13 Feb, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | TBD | Webinar |
| 12-13 Feb, Sat-Sun | 2nd Refresher Course-Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA | Qada USA | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 20 Feb, Sun | Muslih Mauʿūd Day | Local | Jamāʿat |
| 21 Feb, Mon | President's Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 5-6 Mar, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/Aux | Jamāʿat |
| 11-13 Mar, Fri-Sun | HF, All Hands at Deck Conference | Humanity First USA | Houston, TX |
| 13 Mar, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 20 Mar, Sun | Masih Mauʿūd Day | Local | Jamāʿat |
| 25-27 Mar, Fri-Sum | Lajna Mentoring Meeting | Auxiliary /National | Atlanta, GA |
| 26 Mar, Sat | National Tahir Academy Meeting | Tarbiyat Dept | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 2-3 Apr, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 3 Apr-1 May | Ramadan | National Jamāʿat | |
| 10 Apr, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 2 May, Mon | Eid-ul-Fitr | National Jamāʿat | |
| 7-8 May, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 8 May, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 15 May, Sun | Know Your History 7:30 to 8:30 | Isha'at Dept | Webinar |
| 22 May, Sun | Khilafat Day | Local | Jamāʿat |
| 27 May, Fri | National Officeholder Elections USA | Rep Khalifat-ul-Masih | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 28-29 May, Sat-Sun | Majlis Shura USA Jamāʿat | National General Sec. | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 30 May, Mon | Memorial Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 4-5 Jun, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat/Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 12 Jun, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 17-19 Jun, Fri-Sun | Jalsa Salana (Tentative) | National Jamāʿat | Harrisburg PA |
| 25-26 Jun, Sat-Sun | Spiritual Fitness Camp | Local | Jamāʿat |
| 2-3 Jul. Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat/Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 2-4 Jul, Sat-Mon | Independence Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 9 July, Sat | Eid-ul-Aḍḥā | National Jamāʿat | |
| 10 Jul, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 15-17 Jul, Fri-Sun | MKA USA National Ijtima | Aux/National | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 23 Jul, Sat 6-8 PM | Garments for Each Other | Rishta Nata Dept | Webinar |
| 29-31 Jul, Fri-Sun | Presidents National Refresher Course | National | In Person/Zoom |
| 6-7 Aug, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 13-14 Aug, Sat-Sun | Spiritual Fitness Camp | Local | Jamāʿat |
| 14 Aug, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 3-5 Sep, Sat-Mon | Labor Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 10-11 Sep, Sat-Sun | MKA Majlis Shura & Nat. Amila Meeting | Auxiliary /National | TBD |
| 11 Sep, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | Tarbiyat Dept | Webinar |
| 16 Sep, Fri | National Tarbiyat Meeting | TBT | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 16-18 Sep, Fri-Sun | Ansar Shura & National Ijtima | Aux/National | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 18 Sept, Sun | Know Your History 7:30 to 8:30 PM | Isha'at Dept | Webinar |
| 24 Sept, Sat | Lajna USA Women's Rights in Islam | Auxiliary /National | Bait-ur-Rahman |
| 1 Oct, Sat | Lajna USA-Centenary Celebrations | Auxiliary /National | Zoom Webinar |
| 1-2 Oct, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat/Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 9 Oct, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | TBD | Webinar |
| 10 Oct, Mon | Columbus Day Long Weekend | Federal Holiday | |
| 21-23 Oct, Fri-Sun | Majlis Shura Lajna Ima'illah USA | Auxiliary /National | Zion, IL |
| 22 Oct, Sat 6-8 PM | Garments for Each Other | National Rishta Nata Dept | Webinar |
| 5-6 Nov, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 13 Nov, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | TBD | Webinar |
| 24-27 Nov, Thu-Sun | Thanksgiving | Federal Holiday | |
| 3-4 Dec, Sat-Sun | Local Jamāʿat /Auxiliary Activities | Local/ Auxiliary | Jamāʿat |
| 11 Dec, Sun, 5 PM | National Tarbiyat Webinar | TBD | Webinar |
| 23-25 Dec, Fri-Sun | West Coast Jalsa Salana (Tentative) | National/Jamāʿat | Chino, CA |
| 25 Dec, Sun | Christmas Day | Federal Holiday | |

TBD: To Be Decided

# Foundation Stone Ceremony for the Fath-e-'Azeem Mosque, Zion IL